Evangelical Book of Worship

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Evangelical synod of North America.

Evangelical Book of Worship

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Published

by the

German Evangelical Synod

of North America

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EDEN PUBLISHING HOUSE
ST. LOUIS, MO. and CHICAGO, ILL.
1916

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Authorized by the General Conference of the German Evangelical Synod of North America at Louisville, Kentucky, September, 1913.

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Foreword

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The manner in which the service of the Evangelical Church is conducted not only distinguishes it from other Churches, but has at the same time a far-reaching, unconscious and continuous influence upon the essential elements of belief in the hearts of the worshipers. The great truths and historic facts of Christianity may be expressed in statements of doctrine; but unless they come to expression also in the common exercises of devotion, they are almost certain to be lost to the living consciousness of the Church. It is true that the language of devotion is different from the language of definition. It is simpler, warmer, less intellectual and more emotional. It falls naturally into an utterance reflecting the deep currents of experience, and moves under the impulses of the quickened heart. But the facts which enter into this experience, and the truths which quicken the heart to penitence, prayer and praise, are none other than those which enter into the fabric of the faith. Devotion, in order to be helpful and sincere, must translate the elements of our belief into the language of confession and petition, adoration and thanksgiving, consecration, intercession and benediction, joyful praise and solemn sacrament.

May this book go out and be the friend and companion of the Pastor in conducting the service, and may it help to achieve the true end of Evangelical worship, which is that all people should join in the service of God as He is revealed in Jesus Christ.

J. Baltzer,
President-General

St. Louis, Mo., March 7, 1916

PACIFIC SCHOOL OF RELIGION

The Book of Worship

Was authorized by the General Conference to supply for the English services of the Church a compendium of prayers and ministerial forms similar to the German "AGENDE." The work was compiled by the English Literary Board, composed of the Rev. Christian G. Haas, Chrm., Rev. Henry Katterjohn and Rev. Theophile L. Mueller, who received able assistance from many pastors of the Synod. At the direction of the General Conference, held at Louisville, Ky., September, 1913, the manuscript was prepared for publication by a special committee, composed of the Rev. J. U. Schneider, Ph.D., Chrm., Rev. H. J. Schiek, Rev. Paul Pfeiffer, Rev. Chr. G. Haas and Rev. John Baltzer, who were assisted by Rev. F. A. Reller and Rev. Wm. N. Dresel. The work of all collaborators is hereby gratefully acknowledged.

In the preparation of this work the Committees have closely followed the forms contained in the "AGENDE," adding thereto or altering only as subsequent customs of the Church demanded.

For the sake of uniformity the following method was adopted for this "BOOK OF WORSHIP": to employ solely the text of the "American Standard Revised Version" in the quotations from the Bible, to use only the abbreviations of the Books of the Bible given in Hastings "Bible Dictionary," and to adhere to a heavy form of punctuation and a somewhat liberal capitalization in those portions of the Book which are to be read in public, both as aids to proper reading and understanding.

In presenting this "BOOK OF WORSHIP" it is hoped that all pastors and congregations of the German Evangelical Synod of North America will find therein an uplift for public worship, a guide for all ministerial acts and a source of inspiration for all times and seasons.

May the Lord of the Church, Jesus Christ, richly bless the ministry of this

Book of Worship

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Abbreviations of Books of the Bible

As used in this "BOOK OF WORSHIP"

(Taken from Hastings' Bible Dictionary)

OLD TESTAMENT

Gn.—Genesis
Ex.—Exodus
Lv.—Leviticus
Nu.—Numbers
Dt.—Deuteronomy
Jos.—Joshua
Jg.—Judges
Ru.—Ruth
1 S.—1 Samuel
2 S.—2 Samuel
1 K.—1 Kings
2 K.—2 Kings
1 Ch.—1 Chronicles
2 Ch.—2 Chronicles
Ezr.—Ezra
Neh.—Nehemiah
Est.—Esther
Job
Ps.—Psalms
Pr.—Proverbs
Ec.—Ecclesiastes
S.S.—Solomon's Song
Is.—Isaiah
Jer.—Jeremiah
La.—Lamentations
Ezek.—Ezekiel
Dn.—Daniel
Hos.—Hosea
Jl.—Joel
Am.—Amos
Ob.—Obadiah
Jon.—Jonah
Mic.—Micah
Nah.—Nahum
Hab.—Habakkuk
Zeph.—Zephaniah
Hag.—Haggai
Zec.—Zechariah
Mal.—Malachi

NEW TESTAMENT

Mt.—Matthew
Mk.—Mark
Lk.—Luke
Jn.—John
Ac.—Acts
Ro.—Romans
1 Co.—1 Corinthians
2 Co.—2 Corinthians
Gal.—Galatians
Eph.—Ephesians
Ph.—Philippians
Col.—Colossians
1 Th.—1 Thessalonians
2 Th.—2 Thessalonians
1 Ti.—1 Timothy
2 Ti.—2 Timothy
Tit.—Titus
Philem.—Philemon
He.—Hebrews
Ja.—James
1 P.—1 Peter
2 P.—2 Peter
1 Jn.—1 John
2 Jn.—2 John
3 Jn.—3 John
Jude
Rev.—Revelations

PART ONE

The Order of Public Worship

✠

I

Opening Sentences for Public Worship

NOTE. All the people standing, the Minister may begin the service by reading one or more of the following sentences.

Morning Worship

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. (Ro. 1: 7)

The Lord is in His holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before Him. Amen. (Hab. 2: 20)

Ascribe unto Jehovah the glory due unto His name: bring an offering, and come before Him; worship Jehovah in the beauty of holiness. Amen. (1. Ch. 16: 29)

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies. Amen. (Ps. 103: 1—4)

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. The Lord is nigh unto them that call upon Him, to all that call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of them that fear Him; He also will hear their cry, and will save them. Amen. (Ps. 124: 8; Ps. 145: 18, 19)

Seek ye the Lord while He may be found; call ye upon Him while He is near: let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. Amen. (Is. 55: 6, 7)

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abundant in lovingkindness. He hath not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us after our iniquities. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Amen. (Ps. 103: 8, 10; 1 Jn. 1: 9)

Unto Him that loveth us, and loosed us from our sins by His blood; and hath made us to be a kingdom, to be priests unto His God and Father; to Him be the glory and the dominion for ever and ever. Amen. (Rev. 1: 5, 6)

Evening Worship

I will worship toward Thy holy temple, and give thanks unto Thy name for Thy lovingkindness and for Thy truth. Amen. (Ps. 138: 2)

Let my prayer be set forth as incense before Thee; the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. Amen. (Ps. 141: 2)

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my rock, and my redeemer. Amen. (Ps. 19: 14)

The Lord is good unto them that wait for Him, to the soul that seeketh Him. Amen. (La. 3: 25)

It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto Thy name, O Most High; to show forth Thy lovingkindness in the morning, and Thy faithfulness every night. Amen. (Ps. 92: 1, 2)

O come, let us sing unto the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms. Amen. (Ps. 95: 1, 2)

The hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth: for such doth the Father seek to be His worshippers. God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. Amen. (Jn. 4: 23, 24)

I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord. Our feet are standing within thy gates, O Jerusalem. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee. Peace be within thy walls. Amen. (Ps. 122: 1, 2, 6, 7)

Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. (Rev. 7: 12)

II

Invocations

1. Eternal God, our Maker and our Lord; Giver of all grace; from whom every good gift cometh, and who pourest Thy Spirit upon all who seek Thee; deliver us, when we draw nigh to Thee, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind; that with steadfast thoughts and pure affections we may worship Thee in spirit and truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

2. Lord God of heaven and earth, who hast made the Church Thy dwellingplace, and chosen it as Thy rest for ever, and hast taught us in Thy Word not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together; regard us in Thy mercy, we beseech Thee, and send Thy Holy Spirit upon us; that our worship may prepare us, both to serve Thee now, and to glorify Thee hereafter in Thine eternal kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

3. O God, who hast promised, that in all places where Thou dost record Thy Name, Thou wilt meet with Thy servants to bless them; fulfill now Thy promise, and make us joyful in Thy house of prayer; that our worship, being offered in the Name of Thy Son, and by the guidance of Thy Spirit, may be acceptable unto Thee, and profitable unto ourselves; through our only Mediator and Advocate, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

4. Almighty Lord and everlasting God, whom the heaven of heavens cannot contain, much less the temples which our hands have builded, but who art ever nigh unto the humble and contrite; pour Thy Holy Spirit, we beseech Thee, upon all here assembled; that, being cleansed and illumined by His grace, we may worthily show forth Thy praise, meekly learn Thy Word, render due thanks for Thy mercies, and obtain a gracious answer to our prayers, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

5. O God, Light of the hearts that know Thee, and Life of the souls that love Thee, and Strength of the thoughts that seek Thee; from whom to be turned away is to fall, to whom to turn is to rise, and in whom to abide is to stand fast for ever; grant us now Thy forgiveness and blessing, as we are assembled to offer up our confession and supplications; and though we are unworthy to approach Thee, or to ask anything of Thee at all, vouchsafe to hear and to answer us, for the sake of our great High Priest and Advocate, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

III

The Worship of God by Offerings

NOTE. The bringing of offerings for the service of God should be performed as an act of worship. When the offerings are brought to the altar, the Minister shall dedicate them to God with a brief prayer. He may also read or repeat from memory appropriate passages of Holy Scripture relating to offerings before they are received.

Scripture Selections preceding the Offering

One or several of these selections of Scripture may be read accompanied with prayer.

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He himself said, It is more blessed to give than to receive. (Acts 20: 35)

And Jehovah spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, that they take for me an offering: of every man whose heart maketh him willing ye shall take my offering.
(Ex. 25: 1, 2)

And all the congregation of the children of Israel departed from the presence of Moses. And they came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing, and brought Jehovah's offering, for the work of the tent of meeting, and for all the service thereof, and for the holy garments.
(Ex. 35: 20, 21)

Ascribe unto the Lord the glory due unto His name: bring an offering, and come into His courts. I will give thanks unto the Lord with my whole heart, in the council of the upright, and in the congregation. The works of the Lord are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein. His work is honor and majesty; and His righteousness endureth for ever. (Ps. 96: 8; 111: 1—3)

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon the earth, where moth and rust consume, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth consume, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: for where thy treasure is, there will thy heart be also.
(Mt. 6: 19—21)

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, shall they give into your bosom. For with what measure ye mete it shall be measured to you again. (Lk. 6: 38)

But this I say, he that soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he that soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Let each man do according as he hath purposed in his heart: not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.
(2 Co. 9: 6, 7)

So then, as we have opportunity, let us work that which is good toward all men, and especially toward them that are of the household of the faith. (Gal. 6: 10)

Charge them that are rich in this present world, that they be not highminded, nor have their hope set on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good works, that they be ready to distribute, willing to communicate; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on the life which is life indeed. (1 Ti. 6: 17—19)

But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. (He. 13: 16)

Even so let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.
(Mt. 5: 16)

Prayers for the Consecration of Offerings

1. We thank Thee, O heavenly Father, for the privilege of giving to Thee of that which Thou hast given to us. Help us to understand how to give, as becometh those who receive so richly of Thy bounty. May this offering be wisely spent, and carry a blessing with it. We ask it for Thy glory. Amen.

2. Our Father, we humbly beseech Thee to accept our offerings this day. May they accomplish much good by Thy blessing. We ask it in Jesus' Name. Amen.

3. Heavenly Father, we present our offerings to Thee in Thy house, the place where Thine honor dwelleth. We realize that these gifts are in no sense whatever an equivalent for what Thou hast done for us. But be graciously pleased to accept these our temporal gifts, and help us, that in the struggle for worldly comforts, we may not forget to lay up treasures in heaven. We ask it in Jesus' Name. Amen.

4. O most merciful God, of whose bounty we have received; we beseech Thee to accept this offering of Thy people. Remember in Thy love those who have brought it, and those for whom it is given; and so follow it with Thy blessing that it may promote peace and good-will among men, and advance the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

5. O God, our Father, the Author of every good and perfect gift, we bring Thee of that which Thou hast so graciously given us. We praise Thee for the privilege of offering that which shall promote Thy holy work in this place. We beseech Thee to multiply our seed sown and to increase the fruits of our righteousness. We ask it in Jesus' Name. Amen.

6. O Thou God of all blessing, we pray Thee to accept what we offer Thee with grateful hearts. May we learn to

give cheerfully at all times, since Thou, Lord, lovest a cheerful giver. May our offering be blessed, as it is sent forth in Thy Name. May we, as a people, go on from glory to glory, till we come into the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. Amen.

7. All-gracious God, who of Thine infinite love didst give Thine only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to die for our sins and rise again for our justification, and who hast made us partakers of the divine nature through the gift of the Holy Spirit; accept the offering which we now present unto Thee; and grant that our bodies, souls and spirits may be unto Thee a living sacrifice, holy and well-pleasing in Thy sight; and that, going forth in Thy strength, we may be able truly to serve Thee, and in all things to obey Thy will, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

IV

Benedictions

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make His face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. Amen.
(Nu. 6: 24—26)

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.
(2 Co. 13: 14)

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus. Amen.
(Ph. 4: 7)

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son Jesus Christ; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you always. Amen.

Now the God of peace, who brought again from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep with the blood of an eternal covenant, even our Lord Jesus, make you perfect in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is well-pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.
(He. 13: 20, 21)

V

The Order of Morning Worship

Opening Sentence

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn

Invocation

O Lord, who sittest on the throne of glory and also dwellest with those of a broken and contrite heart; who hast promised, that where two or three are gathered together in Thy Name, there art Thou in the midst of them; we beseech Thee to be in our midst now and to bless the study of Thy Word, that in spirit and truth we may serve Thee, O Lord, our Rock, and our Redeemer. Amen.

Response by Congregation: Amen.

Confession of Sins

(Short Form)

(MINISTER.) If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let us therefore confess our sins unto God, and humbly beseech Him, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness, saying:

Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee, that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word and deed. Wherefore, we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Long Form)

(MINISTER.) The Holy Scriptures declare, that when the wicked man turneth away from his wickedness and doeth that which is lawful and right, he shall save his soul and live. The sacrifices of God are a broken and a contrite

heart. To the Lord belong mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him.

Let us, therefore, with sincere, humble and obedient hearts, confess our sins unto our Father, that we may obtain remission of the same, by His infinite goodness and mercy, saying:

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from Thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare Thou those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore Thou those who are penitent, according to Thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for His sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous and sober life, to the glory of Thy holy Name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

(Short Form)

The Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of His great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those, who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto Him, have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(Long Form)

The Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness and live, hath given power and commandment to His ministers, to declare and pronounce to His people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardoneth and absolveth all those, who truly repent and unfeignedly believe His holy Gospel. Wherefore, let us beseech Him to grant us true re-

pentance and His Holy Spirit, that those things may please Him which we do at the present; and that the rest of our life may be pure and holy; so that, at the last, we may come to His eternal joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Response. The Congregation shall sing:

All glory be to God on high,
Who hath our race befriended.
To us no harm shall now come nigh,
The strife at last is ended;
God showeth His good will to men,
And peace shall reign on earth again,
O thank Him for His goodness.
(Hymnal, No. 1, v. 1.)

Or:

Jehovah, Jehovah!
Jehovah, Thou art worthy
Of honor, and glory and praise!
Amen, Amen!
Until the temple of this world
By Thy pow'r to dust is hurled,
Help us when these halls we throng
The Holy, Holy, Holy to prolong.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
(Hymnal, No. 22.)

Prayer

LORD GOD our Father, Creator of heaven and earth! This day is Thy day, when with Thine almighty word, Let there be light, Thou didst begin the work of creation. We beseech Thee, renew Thy work in us to-day, and speak unto our souls, Let there be light, that, delivered from all darkness, we may behold Thy works and ways in Thy holy light, and worship Thee in spirit and truth.

Lord Jesus our Saviour! This day is Thy day, when by Thy glorious resurrection Thou didst reveal Thyself to Thy disciples as the Lord of life. Grant, that we, too, may know the power of Thy resurrection. Come with Thy benediction of peace, and manifest Thyself in this gathering as our living Lord and Saviour.

God, Holy Spirit! This day is Thy day, when Thou didst appear to devout men and gather them into the Church of the Son of God. Unite with us, we pray Thee.

Make the Word of Christ a living power of God in us. Direct and lead this household of God to be builded together in heart and soul, immovable in faith, established in love, for a habitation of God in the Spirit.

Holy Triune God! Sanctify us more and more. Live and dwell in us, that we, both here on earth and finally in heavenly glory, may live and rest in Thee. Amen.

One of the prayers omitting the confession of sins may also be used. See pages 19—25.

Anthem

Reading of the Scriptures

At the conclusion the Minister shall say:

Blessed are they that hear the Word of God and keep it. Amen. (Lk. 11: 28)

Or:

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. Amen. (Ps. 119: 105)

Or:

Sanctify us in the truth: Thy Word is truth. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ His only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the One Holy Universal Christian Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Gloria Patri (To be sung by the Congregation.)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Announcements

The Offering

NOTE. After the Announcements have been made, the Minister shall say: Let us make our offering to Almighty God. When the gifts are brought to the Altar, the Minister shall dedicate them to God with a brief offertory prayer. See Offertory Prayers, page 6. If desirable, the offering may be received after the sermon. Where a special offering is to be taken, the cause should be named.

Hymn

The Sermon

Anthem or Hymn

The General Prayer

ALMIGHTY GOD, our Father, Lord of heaven and earth! We adore Thee as the Creator of the universe. Thou art worthy of all honor, gratitude and praise. We thank Thee that Thou hast graciously protected us and granted us Thy choicest blessings for body and soul. Enable us always to realize Thy mercies, that our hearts may be truly thankful to Thee, and that we may devote ourselves earnestly to Thy service.

We humbly pray Thee to guide the Church of Jesus Christ with all its servants and teachers, and govern it with Thy Holy Spirit that all may be led in the way of truth, and the true Christian faith may grow and be strengthened in all. Grant, that we may increase in godliness and unfeigned love toward all men. Defend Thy Church and Thy people against the enemies of Thy Word; that we, trusting in Thy defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries. Grant, that the light of Thy Gospel may penetrate the darkness of unbelief and superstition, that all who have erred or been deceived may be brought into the way of truth.

We earnestly beseech Thee to bless the President of the United States, the Governor of this Commonwealth, and all others in authority. Fill them with the grace of Thy Holy Spirit, that they may incline to Thy will and walk in Thy way, that (as a nation) we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all sincerity and godliness. We implore Thy heavenly blessing upon the land wherein we live, that we

may dwell under the shield of Thy might, and rejoice in Thee, our God, as our refuge and fortress in whom we trust. Protect us from false doctrine, heresy, strife and dissensions, from tumult and riot, from plague and pestilence, and from every evil of body and soul. We commend to Thy fatherly care all those who are afflicted or distressed in mind, body or estate. Comfort them, O God, through Thy Holy Spirit, that they may humbly submit themselves to Thy guidance, and realize, that to them that love God all things work together for good, and that our light affliction, which is for a moment, worketh for us more and more exceedingly an eternal weight of glory.

Fulfill our desires and petitions as may be expedient for us, and grant whatsoever other things are necessary for our bodies and our souls, according to Thy gracious promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus, Thy blessed Son, our Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

One of the other General Prayers may also be used. See page 38.
The Hymn and Prayer after the sermon may be interchanged.

The Doxology (To be sung by the Congregation.)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Or a suitable closing hymn or verse. See Hymnal.

The Benediction

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen.

For other Benedictions see page 8.

VI

The Order of Evening Worship

Opening Sentence

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

For other Opening Sentences see page 2.

Response

Jehovah, Jehovah!
Jehovah, Thou art worthy
Of honor and glory and praise!
Amen, Amen!
Until the temple of this world
By Thy pow'r to dust is hurled,
Help us when these halls we throng
The Holy, Holy, Holy to prolong.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
(Hymnal, No. 22.)

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ His only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the One Holy Universal Christian Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed and the Gloria Patri may be omitted.

Reading of the Scriptures

If desired, these may be read responsively. See Hymnal.

Hymn

Prayer

ALMIGHTY and merciful God, who hast appointed our portion of labor, that we may serve Thee while it is day; and by whose ordinance the weariness of night cometh, that we may seek rest in Thee; we beseech Thee now to lead and draw our hearts unto Thy dear Son, that, confessing our sin and weakness, we may receive of Him the grace promised unto the heavy laden; and, being forgiven by His mercy, comforted by His Word, refreshed by His Spirit, and lifted up by His fellowship, we may find in this hour of worship a blessing for our souls, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Anthem

Announcements

The Offering

If so desired, the Announcements and the Offering may follow the Sermon.

Hymn

Sermon

Anthem or Hymn

Prayer

The Hymn and Prayer after the Sermon may be interchanged.

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Or suitable closing hymn or verse. See Hymnal.

The Benediction

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make His face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. Amen.

For other Benedictions see page 8.

VII

A Brief Order of Worship

Opening Sentence

For Opening Sentences see pages 1 and 2.

Hymn

Prayer

ALMIGHTY and eternal God, our kind and compassionate Father, who didst give Thine only Son to die upon the cross for us, grant unto us a consciousness of Thy forgiving love. We have not been as mindful of Thee, as we should have been; not as earnest in our Christian living, thoughtful in the reading of Thy Word, patient and loving with those about us, as becomes the lowly followers of Jesus. Forgive us, O God, and help us by Thy grace to offer worship acceptable unto Thee.

We praise Thee that Thou art so gracious, longsuffering and kind. We thank Thee that Thou hast ~~spared~~ us to meet again in Thy house. We adore Thee for Thy great goodness to us, Thy children.

Thou hast brought us out of darkness into Thy marvelous light. Thou hast redeemed us from ~~the thraldom of Satan~~ and given us a love for Thee and Thy Son, ~~for Thy Holy Spirit, Thy Word and all saints~~. Increase our knowledge of the truth; inspire us to obey it; multiply Thy grace and deepen Thy love.

We humbly beseech Thee, that the Word of truth may be preached everywhere; that the sinners may be saved, the ignorant taught, the weak strengthened, the sorrowful comforted, the wicked held back from violence.

We pray, that ministers and missionaries may rightly proclaim Thy Word; that those who teach may live as they teach; that those who are burdened may leave their cares at the feet of the Redeemer; that the sick may know Thee as the great Physician; that those who weep for departed

friends may look forward to the day when those who sleep in Jesus shall leave their graves, ever to be with the Lord; that those who suffer persecution may remember that tribulation worketh patience, and patience experience, and experience hope, and hope maketh not ashamed, because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

And now we ask Thee, enable us to concentrate our thoughts upon Thee. Quicken our sensibilities and make us receptive for Thy Word and its truths. May we hear Thee speak to us. Lead us in the light and in the way of Christ, for His Name's sake. Amen.

Anthem

Scripture Lesson

Hymn

Sermon

Anthem

Announcements

Hymn

During the singing of this Hymn the Offering may be received.

Prayer, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

Doxology, Or suitable closing hymn or verse.

Benediction

For Benedictions see page 8.

VIII

Prayers Omitting the Confession of Sins

NOTE. These may be used in the preceding forms for Public Worship.

1. O LORD, our God, we thank Thee for the privilege of gathering in this consecrated place for meditation upon Thy holy Word. We pray that Thou wouldst sanctify us in the truth: Thy Word is truth. Thy Word abideth for ever, though heaven and earth shall pass away. For ever let it be our joy, for ever our comfort; for unless Thy Word be our delight, we must perish in our affliction. Awaken Thou, O Lord, the souls of all men, that they may receive Thy holy Word which is able to save their souls, that they may keep it, love mercy, and walk humbly before Thee. Let Thy holy Spirit enlighten all who are called to teach Thy Word, enabling them to proclaim it in its purity and with power. Remind all parents of their duty to impart Thy Word early unto their children. Grant, that Thy Word prove its power with us, controlling our conscience, purifying our thoughts, and directing our minds, so that we may keep it in every-day life with sincerity of purpose. Grant, that we may be doers of Thy Word, and not hearers only, lest we delude ourselves; that we may be guided into all truth, walking before Thee blamelessly.

To this end, O Father, bless the preaching of Thy Word in this hallowed hour, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

✠

2. FATHER of mercies, we thank Thee for the blessed Sabbath, on which Thou dost gather Thy children in a special way, that they may rest in Thee and receive rich spiritual blessings. We thank Thee for having given us boldness to draw nigh unto Thee in the Name of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, through whom Thou hast bought us with a price, that we should be Thine own, working out our salvation with fear and trembling. Speak O Lord; we, Thy

servants, hear. Speak unto us Thy word of truth and love, that our souls may be refreshed, our hearts comforted, our minds enlightened; that we may rejoice in Thee, the God of our salvation, and delight in serving Thee in spirit and truth. Let the heavenly seed of Thy Word take root in our souls, spring up, and bear abundant fruit. Help us to hallow this whole Sabbath day in such a manner, that the influences of this hour of devotion may not be removed from us through frivolous conversation or sinful diversions. Let the blessings of this day remain with us throughout the entire week, yea, throughout our earthly life, enabling us to render unto Thee a continuous and acceptable service here below, until Thou wilt receive us into Thy courts above, through Jesus Christ, our blessed Lord. Amen.

✠

3. FATHER of light, who makest the sun cover the earth with brightness, send the light of Thine eternal truth into our benighted souls, that it may dispel all darkness of sin and all gloom of despair; that we may know Thee, and in such knowledge have liberty and life. We realize that, left to ourselves, we grope in darkness; the imagination of our heart is evil from our youth; and we can not come unto Thee, nor attain unto righteousness, save through Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore, we beseech Thee, grant us understanding of Thy holy Word, which Thou hast given as a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path.

Lord Jesus Christ, Thou Sun of righteousness, whom the Father hath sent for a light unto the nations, in Thee is the fountain of life, and through Thee shall we see light. O Lord and Master, we would walk with Thee as the children of light; but the darkness within us is yet so great that we often fail to see Thee and Thy path. As Thou in the days of Thine earthly pilgrimage didst open the eyes of the blind, that they could see and follow Thee, so do Thou now open the eyes of our understanding, that we may behold

Thy salvation. Cause Thy face to shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

Holy Spirit, without whom no man can call Jesus, Lord, make us to see the truth as it is in Jesus, and bring the message of this day home to our hearts with such power, that it may accompany and guide us throughout the whole week.

O Holy Triune God, grant us grace to walk in Thy light, until we shall see Thee face to face. Amen.

✠

4. ALMIGHTY GOD, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we thank Thee for the manifold and gracious manifestations of Thine eternal love and power. The heavens declare Thy glory, and the earth is full of Thy goodness. Day by day Thou openest Thy hand and satisfiest the desire of every living thing. But our souls rejoice most of all in the revelation of Thy love in Thy dear Son, in whom we behold the brightness of Thy glory and the express image of Thy person. Through Him Thou hast reconciled our sin-stricken world unto Thyself, and hast restored unto man righteousness and eternal life. For such abundance of Thy grace we offer unto Thee unceasing praise and thanksgiving, and would to-day consecrate ourselves anew to Thy service. Graciously accept our humble sacrifice. Sanctify our hearts through Thy Holy Spirit, and fill us with Thy peace that passeth all understanding. Draw nigh unto us, O Father, as we are gathered around Thy holy Word, and draw us into closer communion with Thy dear Son, that through faith in Him we may be drawn away from all ungodliness and sin, strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man. Create in us, O God, clean hearts, and fill us with Thy love; work Thou in us, both to will and to do, what is pleasing in Thy sight, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

5. LORD GOD, Thou art light, and in Thee is no darkness. Thou hast sent Thine only begotten Son into the world, that whosoever followeth Him, shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. We pray that on this Sabbath morn Thou wouldst send unto us Thy light and Thy truth to lead us. Let Thy Word, ~~as it is preached unto us this hour~~, be a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. Let Thy Holy Spirit so direct its searching rays that we may be freed from all self-deception and see ourselves, as Thou dost see us. Cast out from us all sinful pride, and cleanse us from all impurities of the flesh and spirit, that Thou mayest fill us with Thy good and perfect gifts and make Thine abode with us. Restore in us Thy holy image, so that we may live in blessed communion with Thee, enjoying a sweet foretaste of the perfect communion with Thee in heaven. Let Thy Holy Spirit strive with those who ~~yet~~ despise and reject Thy ~~blessed~~ Gospel, that they may experience its power unto salvation, that Thy kingdom may spread from shore to shore, and souls be saved to sin no more. Grant these our petitions, O Father, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

✠

6. O GOD, Father of mercies and God of all comfort! By Thy grace we have assembled to worship before Thee in holy fear. ~~We are but dust and ashes and have taken upon ourselves to speak to Thee.~~ Thou hast said, Seek ye My face; therefore, Thy face, O Lord, will we seek and wait upon Thy counsel. Lord, we love the habitation of Thy house and the place where Thy glory dwelleth, that we may make the voice of thanksgiving to be heard, and tell of all Thy wondrous works. We praise Thee, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. From of old Thou hast blessed Thy people with spiritual blessings in the heavenly places through Christ. In Him and through Him bless us now, and continue to pour out upon us Thy blessings, that we

may ever be the blessed of the Lord. Grant us Thy Holy Spirit, that He may guide us into all truth; the Spirit of grace, that He may confirm us in the faith; the Spirit of prayer, that He may establish our communion with Thee; the Spirit of power, that He may enable us to fight the good fight; the Spirit of peace and hope, that He may guard our hearts and thoughts in Christ Jesus unto eternal life.

Amen.

✠

7. LORD GOD eternal, who wast, art and shalt be, graciously look down upon this congregation gathered here in Thy Name. Bless us in this hour, as Thou hast blessed us in times past out of the fullness of Thy love and faithfulness. Awaken within us a heartfelt desire and a holy zeal to seek the one thing needful. Grant, that by Thy power, every work of darkness in our hearts may be destroyed, and that we may be built upon Thy Son Jesus Christ, the only foundation of our faith. Graciously open the eyes of our understanding as we consider Thy holy Word, that we may see Thee as Thou art, and see ourselves as we are, and realize what we must become, if we would attain unto the glory Thou hast prepared for Thy children.

O Thou God of all grace, who hast called us unto Thine eternal glory in Christ, perfect, establish and strengthen us through the power of Thy Holy Spirit, as we now worship before Thee. In the Name of Christ Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, we ask it. Amen.

✠

8. ALMIGHTY GOD, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we would approach Thee this morning with heartfelt gratitude. We thank Thee for Thy precious gift, this sacred day of rest, the day that bids us remember all Thy goodness and mercy which Thou hast manifested unto us

in the great work of creation, redemption and sanctification. Let it be a Sabbath of rest to our souls. Sanctify us by Thy Spirit, that we may consecrate this day unto Thee. Come Thou and dwell in us, that we may rest in Thee. Cleanse us from all impurities of flesh and spirit, that not only to-day, but throughout all the days of our life, our body and soul may be sanctified. Grant, that, as we go about the performance of our daily duties, our hearts and thoughts may be directed unto Thee, so that our whole life may be worship pure and undefiled before Thee, our God and Father. Let us through faith in Thy Son enjoy that peace which the world cannot give. Comfort us in our daily work and in the toil of our hands with the blessed assurance of the fullness of eternal joy and rest in Thy presence. And when, at last, Thou shalt call us away from the land of our sojournings, wilt Thou graciously grant that we may become partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light. All this we ask in Jesus' Name. Amen.

✠

9. LORD GOD, our heavenly Father, blessed be Thy holy Name for ever and ever. Oh, that we might ascribe unto Thee the glory due unto Thy great Name for the blessed Gospel of salvation, wherein Thou hast revealed unto us the wonderful riches of Thy lovingkindness. We humbly beseech Thee, enlighten and rule us by Thy Holy Spirit, that with open and sincere hearts we may hear and receive Thy holy Word; and grant, that, as we remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy, we may by the power of Thy Holy Spirit be sanctified in Thy truth.

Enlighten and strengthen the ministers of Thy Word by Thy Holy Spirit, that, fully assured in their own minds and constrained by the love of Christ, they may proclaim the Gospel with power in all its truth and purity.

Give us grace, that we may set all our assurance and hope on Jesus Christ, Thy Son; that we may ever more endeavor perfectly to conform our lives to the beautiful counsels of Thy Word; that we may avoid giving offense; that with ever increasing faithfulness we may follow our Saviour, and, when life's journey is ended enter Thy heavenly kingdom. Amen.

✠

10. GOD of all grace, we have assembled in Thy house to meditate upon Thy precious Word with which Thou hast blessed us, that we might become wise unto the salvation of our souls. Oh grant, that we may be profoundly conscious of Thy divine presence, and in humility bow down before Thee; that we may turn from the vanities of earth to the eternal realities of the heavenly places, and waiting upon Thee, be enlightened to apprehend Thy love in Christ which passeth all knowledge. To this end grant us, O God, Thy Holy Spirit and bless Thy Word unto each one according to our individual needs.

Grant, that the indifferent may be aroused, the weak strengthened, the afflicted comforted, and our souls be saved for Thy great mercies' sake, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

✠

IX

Prayers with the Confession of Sins

✠

1. HOLY, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory. To Him we lift up our hearts and Him we worship in reverence and holy fear.

Lord, Thy greatness is inconceivable. The heavens tell of Thy glory and the whole earth proclaims Thy wisdom; the seas bear witness to Thy goodness and omnipotence, yea, all that breathes doth praise Thee, and all the blessed spirits bow before Thee in adoration, for Thou alone art worthy to receive praise and honor, power and glory. Hallelujah!

Lord, we worship and glorify Thee and utter our praises before Thee, who art holy and dwellest in the sanctuary, who hast need of no creature, but hast in Thyself the fullness of all perfection. But we are imperfect and unclean; we have sinned before Thee, and are not worthy to lift up our eyes unto Thee, who dwellest in perfect holiness. Therefore we humble ourselves before Thy majesty and confess to Thee all the sins we have committed in thought, word and deed, openly as well as in secret, those known to us, and those known only to Thee, the All-knowing One. But trusting in Thy great mercy, we come to Thee confidently, as those who have free access to the throne of Thy grace through Thine only begotten Son, our Lord and Saviour. To Thee we lift up our voices and pray, O God, be merciful unto us who are sinners; cast us not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from us. Purify our hearts from all uncleanness; renew and sanctify our minds; draw our thoughts and desires away from the things of the earth and from all worldly cares, and make us worthy to serve Thee not only this day, but throughout all the days of our life, that the offerings of our prayers and our praises may be acceptable unto Thee. Teach us the

truth of Thy Word and reveal unto us the glad message of righteousness, that we may hear and learn it gladly, keep it in honest and good hearts, and be willing doers of Thy Word, bringing forth fruit in patience. Graciously regard all Thy people that wait upon the riches of Thy mercy. Be near unto all who seek Thy presence this day, who call earnestly upon Thee, lifting up holy hands without wrath and disputing, at all times and in every place. Hear Thou our petitions and prayers for Jesus' sake. Amen.

✠

2. ALMIGHTY and merciful God and Father! Gathered in Thy sanctuary, we call upon Thee to fill us with the spirit of grace and prayer, that we may not worship Thee with our lips only, but that we may draw near unto Thee with our hearts and worship Thee in spirit and truth. We come to Thee with praise and thanksgiving for the guidance and protection which we have enjoyed during the past week and throughout all our life, especially in the hours of trial and affliction. In the Name of our Saviour Jesus Christ, Thy Son, we pray Thee that Thou wouldst be gracious and merciful toward us who are weak and sinful, for, since the days of our youth, we have in many ways transgressed Thy holy commandments. But enter Thou not into judgment with Thy servants, and deal not with us according to our sins; have mercy upon us according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies.

And, as Thou hast commanded us to remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy, we beseech Thee to open our hearts, to the end that we may be benefited by the hearing of Thy Word, grow in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ and have life through faith in Him. Help us to receive humbly the chastenings of Thy Word, and to bring our life and conduct into better conformity with it, so that we may become more fruitful.

Watch over us, O Lord, during this new week and throughout all the remaining days of our life. Be Thou a wall of fire round about us and all those who are near and dear to us, and protect us from all sorrow and misfortune. Guide us in all our ways and keep Thou our going out and our coming in from this time forth and for evermore.

Amen.

✠

3. HOW AMIABLE are Thy tabernacles, O Lord of Hosts! Our hearts are glad and exult in Thee, as we gather in Thy house to call upon Thy Name and proclaim Thy living Word. We praise Thy holy Name that Thou hast revealed unto us Thy grace in Christ Jesus and hast made known unto us the way of life, and art even now ready to speak to us through the preaching of Thy Word. We beseech Thee humbly, do not remember our sins, but forgive us our iniquities and transgressions, for we daily sin greatly and well deserve nothing but punishment. But Thou art gracious and merciful. Therefore, blot out all our wickedness for the sake of Jesus Christ, Thy dear Son, our Saviour.

Be Thou with us even now, as we are assembled before Thee, and enlighten our understanding through Thy good and holy Spirit, that we may hear Thy Word aright, consider it diligently and keep it in an honest and good heart. Sanctify us more and more, that we may become better fitted to serve Thee sincerely, and to worship Thee in spirit and truth. Make us perfect in every good work to do Thy will, and work in us that which is wellpleasing in Thy sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

✠

4. O HOLY and eternal God, Thou who dwellest in the heavens and with those of a contrite heart and who honor Thy Word! We come before Thee as disobedient

children to acknowledge our transgressions, because we have sinned much, from infancy until this day, with evil thoughts, words and deeds, even as Thou, O Lord, knowest us to be guilty, and we ourselves feel and recognize it most deeply. We repent sincerely, O Lord, and in deep sorrow and humility seek Thy mercy and pardon. Be Thou gracious unto us, O Lord and Father. Forgive us our many sins according to Thine infinite lovingkindness. Renew and sanctify us through Thy Holy Spirit and lead us unto life eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

O great and glorious God, praised by all the angels and saints in heaven! Give to us poor creatures grace sufficient to worship Thee sincerely and to serve Thee in ways acceptable unto Thee. Help us now to stand reverently in Thy presence with a believing heart and a mind inclined toward that which is heavenly. Guide our thoughts and desires, sanctify our devotions, consecrate our hearts, and let the words of our lips and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, our Rock, and our Redeemer! Hear our prayers for Jesus' sake, and graciously bestow upon us all that is needful for our temporal welfare and eternal salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

✠

5. O MERCIFUL and faithful God, Father of our Saviour and Master, who with the Son and the Holy Spirit dost reign eternally; we praise Thee for all the gifts of Thy goodness and mercy which we are continuously receiving by Thy lovingkindness. Thou hast graciously kept and protected us, so that we are again privileged to observe joyously this Thy day with all Thy children. We thank Thee especially, that we are dwelling in the fullness of the light of Thy Gospel of salvation, through which we may learn to know Thee better and to serve Thee more, to the end, that we may live and die as Christians. We beseech Thee,

our heavenly Father, that Thou wouldst preserve this gracious light for us and our children. And in order that we may be acceptable unto Thee, and remain in the adoption of sons, wouldst Thou forgive us all our sins and transgressions for the sake of Thy beloved Son, our Lord and our Redeemer. Sanctify us through Thy Holy Spirit, that we may be enabled to renounce the world and all earthly desires, and find our greatest joy in serving Thee in holiness and righteousness all our days. And now, as we are gathered here to hallow Thy day of rest, do Thou give us grace to hear Thy Word gladly, to ponder upon it faithfully and to keep it in a pure heart. May we not only this day, but all the remaining days of our pilgrimage, cease from every evil work, and finally join all the elect, the saints and the angels, on that eternal Sabbath in Thy presence, there in unending bliss to praise with them Thy great and mighty deeds. We ask it in Jesus' Name. Amen.

✠

6. LORD, our God, how amiable are Thy tabernacles! We love the habitation of Thy house, and the place where Thy glory dwelleth. We come into Thy presence with praise and thanksgiving, for Thou hast proclaimed to us Thy Word of truth and established the glory of Thy holy Name. We thank Thee that Thou hast manifested Thy tender mercy toward us, through Jesus Christ our Lord, and taught us the way of life, and dost call us to a life of bliss and everlasting salvation by the preaching of Thy holy Word.

We humbly beseech Thee, not to remember against us our manifold iniquities. Let Thy mercy abound with us, and quicken our souls with the assurance of Thy loving-kindness toward all those who seek Thy countenance with contrite hearts. Pardon and deliver us from all our sins, for the sake of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

And since we are gathered in Thy Name to rest from our daily labor and to worship Thee, we pray, that Thou wouldst open our hearts to give heed to the words that are spoken, that we may be doers of the Word of God, and not hearers only. Grant us enlightenment through the Holy Spirit to a proper understanding of Thy blessed revelation, that we may know Thy will and worship Thee in spirit and truth.

Make us ever more efficient in every good work, to do Thy will, and accomplish in us what is pleasing in Thy sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with Thee and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

✠

7. OUR HEAVENLY Father, merciful and eternal God, humbly do we confess our sinfulness before Thy divine Majesty. We acknowledge our sins unto Thee, and our iniquities we would not hide. We have broken Thy holy commandments with our sinful lives, provoked Thy wrath and merited punishment and condemnation.

But, O Lord, Thou art merciful to the contrite heart. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise. We come unto Thee in deep contrition and pray, that Thy mercy may abound with us in our sinfulness and weakness. Wilt Thou forgive us our many sins and transgressions for our Saviour's sake, and grant us the help of the Holy Spirit, that Christ may be glorified in our hearts and lives, that sin may be cast out and we arise anew in purity, righteousness and holiness.

Help us, our Father, to understand Thy holy Word. May it be the light unto our path and the fountain of life to us. Help us to put our trust in Thee, realizing that all flesh is as grass, and that the arm of man availeth not.

May we crucify and utterly abolish the old body of sin, and give our life unto Thee as a living sacrifice to the greater glory of Thy holy Name, and to our own and our neighbor's salvation. We ask it all for our Saviour's sake, unto whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, shall be praise and honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

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8. HOLY, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory.

All we like sheep have gone astray, every one to his own way. Innumerable evils have compassed us about, our iniquities have taken hold upon us; our life is spent in grief and our years with sighing; our strength faileth us, because of our transgressions.

But in Thee do we trust. Thou wilt help us, O Lord our God. All Thy paths are mercy and truth. Thou forgivest the iniquity of our sins. Thou art our hiding-place, Thou shalt preserve us in the day of trouble.

Purify our hearts as in a refiner's fire. Hear the voice of our supplication when we cry unto Thee. We lift up our hands unto Thee. We cried unto Thee and Thou didst heal us. How great is Thy goodness laid up for them that fear Thee. Hide us in the secret of Thy presence. Amen.

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9. ALMIGHTY and merciful God, our Father through Jesus Christ our Lord; we sincerely thank Thee for Thine unbounded love which Thou hast manifested from the beginning in Thine all-wise counsel and foreknowledge of redemption. When the fullness of time came, Thou didst send forth Thy Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have eternal life. We thank Thee for Thy manifold gifts of grace by which Thou hast

delivered us out of the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son of Thy love, that we might become partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.

Lord, Thou art gracious and merciful; slow to anger, and of great lovingkindness. We acknowledge that we are not worthy of all these evidences of Thy mercy; for all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God. We do earnestly repent of our offenses, and beseech Thee, to have mercy upon us and to forgive us our sins for the sake of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Renew and multiply in us the gift of Thy holy Spirit, that we may die unto sin, but live unto Thee in Christ Jesus, that we may be filled with the knowledge of Thy will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding. Grant, that we may walk worthily of Thee, bearing fruit of every good work, increasing in Thy knowledge. Strengthen us with all power, according to the might of Thy glory, unto all patience and long-suffering with joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We ask Thy special blessing upon the services of this day. Bless Thy people wherever they may be assembled to worship Thee, to the end, that we may enjoy the testimony of a good conscience and the assurance of Thy favor; and, finally, when our pilgrimage here is ended, graciously receive us into the realms of peace and glory and life eternal. We ask it in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

Amen.

X

Special Prayers and Intercessions

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1. A Prayer for the President of the United States and all in Authority

O LORD, our heavenly Father, the high and mighty Ruler of the universe, who dost from Thy throne behold all the dwellers upon earth; most heartily we beseech Thee, with Thy favor to behold and bless Thy servant, the President of the United States, and all others in authority; and so replenish them with the grace of Thy holy Spirit, that they may always incline to Thy will, and walk in Thy way. Endue them plenteously with heavenly gifts; grant them to live in health and prosperity; and, finally, after this life, to attain everlasting joy and felicity, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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2. A Prayer for all Conditions of Men

O GOD, the Creator and Preserver of all mankind, we humbly beseech Thee for all sorts and conditions of men; that Thou wouldst be pleased to make Thy ways known unto them, Thy saving health unto all nations. More especially we pray for Thy holy Church universal, that it may be so guided and governed by Thy good Spirit, that all who profess to be Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in the righteousness of life. Finally, we commend to Thy fatherly goodness all those who are afflicted, or distressed, in body, mind, or estate; that it may please Thee to comfort and relieve them, according to their several necessities; giving them patience amid their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions. And this we ask for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

3. A General Thanksgiving

ALMIGHTY GOD, Father of all mercies, we, Thine unworthy servants, do give Thee most humble and hearty thanks for all Thy goodness and lovingkindness to us and to all men. We bless Thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of life; but above all, for Thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace and the hope of glory. And, we beseech Thee, give us that due sense of all Thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we may show forth Thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives; by giving up ourselves to Thy service, and walking before Thee in holiness and righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with Thee and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, world without end.

Amen.

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4. A Prayer for the Coming of God's Kingdom and Universal Peace

O THOU King eternal, immortal, invisible, Thou only wise God, our Saviour; hasten, we beseech Thee, the coming of Thy kingdom upon earth, and draw the whole world into willing obedience to Thy blessed reign. Overcome all the enemies of Christ, and bring low every power that is exalted against Him. Cast out all the evil things which cause wars and fightings among us, and let Thy Spirit rule the hearts of men in righteousness and love. Restore the desolations of former days; let the wilderness rejoice with beauty, and make glad the city with Thy law. Establish every work that is founded on truth and equity, and fulfill all the good hopes and desires of Thy people. Manifest Thy will, Almighty Father, in the brotherhood of man unto the establishment of universal peace, through the victory of Christ our Lord. Amen.

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5. A Prayer for Bible Schools

O GOD, our Father, in whose image all the children of men are made; most heartily we beseech Thee to bless the Bible School of the Church, that young and old may be instructed in Thy Word, and that Thy likeness may be renewed in their hearts through the knowledge of Thy dear Son, our Lord. Open the Holy Scripture, both to those who teach and to those who learn, that the difficulties of the letter may not hide the light of the Spirit. Make all the scholars ready to be taught and willing to obey, that they may find joy and peace in the way of Thy commandments. Enrich the teachers with patient faithfulness and loving wisdom, so that they may be ambassadors of Christ who shall win many souls to righteousness. Quicken Thy Church, O Lord, to the end, that many laborers may go forth into this part of Thy vineyard. We pray Thee, look not only upon us and our children, but upon Thy children in all lands as well, who still dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. Have pity upon them, and gather them by the kindly hand of Thy servants into the light of the Christian fold, that all may sit at the feet of Jesus and learn of Him. Grant Thy power and success to all efforts to bring the world to Thee by preaching and teaching. Bless such work as will make for righteousness and Christian character, and so let Thy truth be manifested from generation to generation, until the whole family of mankind shall rejoice together in Thy mercy, through Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world. We ask it in Thy Name, Lord Jesus. Amen.

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6. A Prayer for Schools and Colleges

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, whose Son came into the world to destroy the power of darkness, and make us children of light; illumine our minds, we beseech Thee, with the full and abiding knowledge of Christ and His

Gospel. Send Thy favor upon all efforts to train the young in intelligence, virtue, and piety. Bless all schools and colleges of sound learning and Christian education, and make them instruments in Thy hand of great good to the world. Endue the officers and teachers with a true sense of their high stewardship, and enlarge the hearts of the people to a loyal support of good institutions of learning, where the precepts of the Gospel are honored as the supreme wisdom.

Enlighten the minds, purify the hearts and lives of the students, so that they may go forth a noble host, made ready and consecrated for large and fruitful work. Bless everywhere those who are striving for a Christian education amid the hindrances of poverty and friendlessness; raise up friends and strengthen wise agencies to prosper their endeavors. Pour out Thy Spirit from on high, and sanctify all minds and hearts for Thine acceptable service here, and Thy blessed kingdom hereafter. All this we ask in the Name of Him who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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7. A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto Thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in Thy Name, Thou wilt grant their requests; fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of Thy servants, as may be most expedient for them, granting us in this world knowledge of Thy truth, and in the world to come, life everlasting. Amen.

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XI

General Prayers

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1. ALMIGHTY and eternal God, who art worthy to be held in reverence by all the children of men, we humbly give thanks unto Thee for the innumerable blessings, both temporal and spiritual, which, without any merit or worthiness on our part, Thou hast bestowed upon us. We praise Thee especially, that Thou hast preserved unto us, in their purity, Thy holy Word and the sacred ordinances of Thy Church.

We beseech Thee, O Lord, to grant and to preserve unto Thy Church, throughout the world, purity of doctrine, and faithful pastors who shall preach Thy Word with power; and help all who hear, rightly to understand and truly to believe. Be Thou the Protector and Defender of Thy people in all times of tribulation and danger; and may we, in communion with Thy holy Church and in brotherly unity with all Christians, fight the good fight of faith, and in the end receive the salvation of our souls.

Bestow the influence of Thy Spirit upon all the nations of the earth. We pray Thee especially to bless our land, and all its inhabitants, and all who are in authority. Cause Thy glory to dwell in our land; mercy and truth, righteousness and peace everywhere to prevail. To this end we commend to Thy care all our schools, the seminaries and all other institutions of our Church, and pray Thee to make them nurseries of useful knowledge, of Christian virtues and morals, that they may bring forth among us the wholesome fruits of life.

Graciously protect us from all calamities by fire and water, from war and pestilence, from want and famine. Bless and prosper every one in his honorable calling, and cause all useful arts to flourish among us. Be Thou the

God and Father of the widows and orphans, the Keeper of the sick and needy, and the Comforter of the forsaken and distressed.

And since we are strangers and pilgrims on earth, having no continuing city here, help us by true faith and a godly life to prepare for the life to come; doing the work which Thou hast given us to do while it is day, before the night cometh, when no man can work. And, when our last hour shall come, support us by Thy power, and receive us into Thine everlasting kingdom, through Jesus Christ, Thy dear Son, our Lord, who reigneth with Thee and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

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2. O LORD, almighty and everlasting God, we worship Thee with all the redeemed in heaven and on earth, for Thou alone art the ever living and true God. Thine be all honor, and power, and glory, and dominion.

Thou art the Creator of all things visible and invisible, the Source of all life and blessing, the Giver of all good gifts. We thank Thee for life and health and strength and all the manifold blessings which Thou hast bestowed upon us. Above all do we thank Thee for the gift of Thine only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, that He might redeem this lost and sin-stricken world from the power of sin, and be made a sure and eternal hope for all those who trust in Him. We thank Thee for His incarnation, for His life in the humble likeness of man; for His miracles and divine doctrines; for His suffering and death upon the cross; for His resurrection from the dead; for His ascension and exaltation to Thy right hand; for His all-prevailing advocacy; for the sending of the Holy Spirit, and for the founding of the Christian Church in which Thou hast instituted Thy precious means of grace.

O Lord, in contemplation of all Thy mercies, we acknowledge, that we have sinned in Thy sight, and are not worthy to be called Thy children. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way, and merit Thy righteous indignation, for there is no virtue in us. But blessed be Thy holy Name, for Thou deliverest those that fear Thee. Blot out our transgressions according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Create in us a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within us. Cleanse us through Thy blood from all our sins and transgressions, and let us be clothed with Thy righteousness, that we may rejoice in Thee, the God of our salvation. Grant us the enlightenment of Thy Spirit, that we may know Thee aright, and sanctify the meditation of our hearts unto faithful obedience to Thee.

O Holy Spirit, our Comforter and Guide, bear witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God. Strengthen and confirm our communion with Christ Jesus. Grant us strength and edification in the diligent use of the means of grace, that we may be strong in the power of Thy might and able to withstand in the evil day, and be reckoned heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified with Him.

Thou holy and exalted Son of God, to whom is given all authority in heaven and on earth, to be the head over all things in the Church, we pray Thee, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance; replenish the ministers of Thy Gospel with gifts of Thy grace, that they may proclaim the counsel of Thy love in demonstration of the Spirit and of power. Visit, we pray Thee, this congregation with Thy love and favor, enlighten the minds of all with the light of Thy Gospel. Instil into every heart a sincere love of Thy truth, and keep us all in the same blessed Spirit, that we

may be exalted with Thee on that day when in the Name of Jesus every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

PART TWO

The Order of Worship for Festival Days

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I

The Advent Season

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1. First Sunday in Advent

Opening Sentence

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee; He is just, and having salvation. Amen. (Zec. 9: 9)

Invocation

Praise and thanks be given to Thee, Lord our God, that we are again permitted to commemorate the coming of Thy dear Son. Grant, that we may receive Him with joy, and serve Thee in purity of heart and abiding faith, through Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Opening Prayer

PRAISE, and honor, and thanks be given Thee, Almighty God, our merciful Father, for the manifestation of Thy love in the sending of Thine only begotten Son, that we might be saved from our sins. Aid us, we beseech Thee, heartily to repent of all our sins, that we may be prepared to receive our Saviour with gladness, and rejoice in the great mystery of godliness, which was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached among nations, believed on in the world, received up in glory.

We praise Thy divine mercy, Lord Jesus, Thou King of glory, that Thou didst humble Thyself, taking the form of a servant, that Thou mightest come to bring us salvation and rest unto our souls. May Thy presence be manifest in our nation, in our churches, in our schools, in our hearts and homes. Grant, that the light of Thy Gospel may direct us in all our ways to the glory of Thy Name. Protect our country in all its interests, and direct our rulers and magistrates according to Thy will. Fill them with Thy Spirit of wisdom and justice. Enable them to secure to all our people liberty and happiness. Rule and direct by the Spirit of Thy grace the hearts of all ministers of the Gospel. Enlighten, strengthen and bless them in the ministration of Thy Word, and build Thy holy Church in all the world. May this Advent be the beginning of a time of awakening to those who have strayed away from Thy paths; of repentance and conversion to sinners; of blessed progress in the efforts of Thy sincere followers. Let it be a period of deliverance to the oppressed, of consolation to the afflicted, and comfort to the sick and dying.

Grant us, we beseech Thee, to pass the time of our sojourn here in fear, in daily watchfulness and prayer, ever looking for the day of Thy coming in great power and majesty to judge the world in righteousness. Let not that day come upon us unawares. Aid us that we may be prepared to receive Thee with gladness, and join in the glad acclaim, Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest! Graciously sanctify the holy Advent season to this end. Hear us, O Thou eternal Son of the Father, to whom, with Thee and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

After Scripture Lesson

Say ye to the daughter of Zion, Behold, thy salvation cometh; behold, His reward is with Him, and His recompense before Him. **Amen.** (Is. 62: 11)

Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest. **Amen.** (Mt. 21: 9)

Closing Prayer

ETERNAL GOD, our heavenly Father, we praise Thy holy Name, that Thou dost permit us to enter upon a new church-year in peace and happiness. We thank Thee that Thou hast preserved to us the light of Thy holy Word, and dost impart and maintain the new life, divine strength and grace to the faithful members of Thy Church by the gift of Thy holy Sacraments. We thank Thee for the teaching, reproof, correction and instruction of Thy Gospel.

We pray Thee not to reckon unto us our sins of omission and commission, and create in us clean hearts, and renew a right spirit within us: the spirit of knowledge, of wisdom, of faith, of repentance, of godliness and obedience, that we may bring forth the fruits of righteousness and holiness to Thy glory and the upbuilding of Thy kingdom. Endue all ministers with the power of Thy Holy Spirit, and bless their labors, to the end that sinners may be converted unto Thee, and many souls be gathered into Thine everlasting kingdom. Preserve us, we beseech Thee, in Thine everlasting love, and give us grace, that with truly grateful hearts we acknowledge the benefits of Thy redemption. Extend Thy kingdom upon the earth according to the greatness of Thy power, and turn the hearts of the wicked and impenitent to Thee. Enable those who are deluded by the wealth and luxury of this world to behold the folly of worldliness and seek the one thing needful, the good part, which shall not be taken away from them. May Thy grace reclaim those who have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, but are again returning to the world. May Thy Spirit complete the work of grace in those who have been awakened to repentance and faith. Revive with Thy consolation all who are in affliction and temptation, that they may not fall from Thee. Deliver us from all evil of body and soul; and, finally, when our last hour has come, grant us a happy end, and graciously take us from this world of sorrow into the joy of Thy heavenly abode.

Lord, as Thou didst come to Thy people Israel and to us, and didst announce the coming of Thy Kingdom to all people, we pray Thee, take Thy heritage and gather all the nations into Thy fold, that there may be one flock and one shepherd. Thou God of peace, sanctify us wholly; and may our spirit and soul and body be preserved entire, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

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2. Second Sunday in Advent

Opening Sentence

Thus saith the Lord: My righteousness is near, my salvation is gone forth, and mine arms shall judge the peoples; the isles shall wait for me, and on mine arm shall they trust. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath; for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment; and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner; but my salvation shall be for ever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished. Amen. (Is. 51: 5, 6)

Invocation

LORD JESUS, Thou King of glory, who in Thy first Advent didst establish justification by faith, that we might look forward to Thy second coming with joy: come and bring about the consummation of Thy kingdom, which Thou hast begun in us through the power of Thy grace and truth. To Thee be all glory and praise, world without end. Amen.

Opening Prayer

LORD, OUR GOD, we praise Thine everlasting love, in that Thou didst send Thine only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to this world, that we might be delivered from the power of darkness and the burden of sin by Thy grace, and attain the heritage of everlasting life. Thou, our Lord and Saviour, art the true Light of the world to grant us knowledge and truth, and from the abundance of Thy grace Thou dost grant us comfort, peace, power and abiding hope.

Grant us enlightenment, O God, that we may humbly acknowledge our transgressions, and cleave to Thy Son Jesus Christ, and be saved. Pour out into our hearts that gratitude which shall prompt the most ardent devotion to Thy service, and render our whole life one continued act of thanksgiving. Aid us to form right conceptions of Christ and His Advent. Make us sensible of our great need of this dispensation of Thy mercy. Animate us to accept it as our only hope of forgiveness and reconciliation. Bless the preaching of Thy Word to this end, that we may be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deluding our own selves.

Lord, our Saviour, Thou hast been ordained of God to be the Judge of the living and the dead. Grant us the guidance of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may live in daily preparation of Thy coming, and be purified, even as Thou art pure, that we may be made like unto Thee in Thine eternal and glorious kingdom. Aid us, O Lord, that at Thy second coming with power and great glory, and all the angels with Thee, to judge the world, we may be set with those on Thy right hand, and hear Thy gracious words, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. Come, Lord Jesus, yea, come quickly. Amen.

After Scripture Lesson

I create the fruit of the lips: Peace, peace, to him that is far off and to him that is near, saith Jehovah. Amen. (Is. 57: 19)

Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain; let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of Jehovah cometh, for it is nigh at hand. Amen. (Jl. 2: 1)

Closing Prayer

OUR LORD and Saviour, Jesus Christ, with Thy Church on earth we come to offer Thee the homage of joyful and grateful hearts, for Thou hast again permitted us to observe Thy coming to us as our Saviour and Redeemer. We rejoice that Thou didst manifest Thyself as the head of

the Church, and our hearts are gladdened by Thy advent and gracious presence, ~~Thou Shepherd and Bishop of our souls.~~ We are afflicted, but Thou dost come to us as the great Physician. We are poor, but Thou dost visit us with the abundance of Thy riches.

O Lord, let not Thy mercy depart from us, and enable us to fully realize Thy gracious presence. May the power of Thy Holy Spirit be made more manifest in our churches, in our schools and in our homes. Restore unto us the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold us with a willing spirit, that by the Word of Thy truth ~~and the gracious gift of Thy holy Sacraments~~ we may persevere in the saving faith. Rule and direct by Thy Spirit of grace the hearts of all parents, and children, ~~and servants~~, that they may have Thee always before their eyes, and fulfill the duties of their several stations in righteousness and true holiness as shall be well-pleasing to Thee, serving Thee all the days of their lives. Comfort and succor all those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. And since we are assured of our justification by the testimony of the Holy Spirit, bearing witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God, give us grace, we beseech Thee, steadfastly to resist the allurements of sin, that by Thy Holy Spirit we may ever obey Thy godly leadings in righteousness and true holiness. And when Thou comest in Thy power, enable us, blessed Saviour to lift up our heads with joy, and behold the fullness of our redemption drawing nigh; and may we be found acceptable in Thy sight, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

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3. Third Sunday in Advent

Opening Sentence

Thus saith the Lord: Keep ye justice, and do righteousness; for my salvation is near to come, and my righteousness to be revealed. Amen. (Is. 56: 1)

Invocation

O LORD Jesus Christ, who at Thy first coming didst send Thy messenger to prepare the way before Thee, grant that the ministers and stewards of Thy mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready Thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to Thee, that at Thy second coming to judge the world, we may embrace, and hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which Thou hast bestowed upon us as a gift of Thy grace. Amen.

Opening Prayer

MERCIFUL GOD, our heavenly Father, we praise Thee for the blessings of this festive season. Our hearts are filled with joy at the coming of Thy Son. Grant us, we beseech Thee, grace and heavenly wisdom that we may receive Thy Word with pure affection, and bring forth the fruits of Thy Spirit. Bless all ministers of the Gospel with true knowledge and understanding of Thy Word, that they may set it forth in truth and power, and Thy people may cast off the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light. Create in us clean hearts, and renew a right spirit within us, that we may worship Thee in spirit and truth. Assist us, that we may become firm in our faith, and be established in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Give peace unto them that seek to obey Thy truth, and turn the hearts of the wicked and impenitent to Thee.

Adoration and praise be to Thee, Lord Jesus, our Saviour, that Thou didst come to this world to mercifully interpose in behalf of our fallen race, as a deliverer of those who were lost. Thou didst come to preach good tidings unto the meek. to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty

to the captives, and to open the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord. The expectations of the just have been fulfilled by Thy coming. All the promises of God are yea and Amen in Thee, to the praise and glory of God.

Come now, blessed Saviour, and manifest Thy presence among us this day, for Thou hast promised to be in the midst of them that gather together in Thy Name. Bestow upon us the help and comfort of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may daily increase in the knowledge of Thee, our Lord and King; honor, confess, and worship Thee; take up our cross and follow Thee; and always walk as becometh the children of light, that when our last hour shall come, we may pass with joy and comfort through the dark valley of death, and live with Thee for ever in the light and glory everlasting.

Amen.

After Scripture Lesson

Prepare to meet thy God, O Israel. Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to render to each man according as his work is. Amen. (Am. 4: 12; Rev. 22: 12)

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors: and the King of glory will come in. Amen. (Ps. 24: 7)

Closing Prayer

Same as Second Sunday in Advent. See page 46.

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4. Fourth Sunday in Advent

Opening Sentence

The voice of one that crieth, Prepare ye in the wilderness the way of the Lord; make level in the desert a highway for our God. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. Amen.

(Is. 40: 3, 5)

Invocation

LORD GOD, our heavenly Father, we, Thine unworthy servants, do give Thee most hearty thanks for all Thy goodness and lovingkindness to us and to all men. We bless Thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all, for Thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ. Prepare our hearts by the ministration of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may receive Thy beloved Son and joyfully praise Thee, our God and Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Opening Prayer

WE PRAISE Thee, our heavenly Father, that Thou didst send John the Baptist to prepare the way for Thy Son Jesus Christ. Grant, O God, that the voice of Thy servant in the wilderness may move the hearts of all men to prepare a highway for the Saviour of the world, that the good tidings of great joy may be communicated to all men, and every tongue confess Jesus Christ the Lord, to the praise of Thine honor and glory.

Lord Jesus, Son of Almighty God, Thou didst come into the world as our King, our Righteousness, the Author of our salvation. We rejoice in Thee as the all-sufficient Saviour. Thou dost richly bless us with Thy ~~good~~ Word and ~~the holy~~ Thy Sacraments. Blessed art Thou, who didst ~~come in the Name of the Lord, Thou Son of David, our Comforter and Redeemer.~~ Our hearts rejoice greatly, for Thou art He that cometh, and we look not for another. Abide with us, and let Thy heavenly benediction and gracious gifts be with us. Enter into us, Thy living temples,

and sanctify us wholly in body, soul and spirit, that we may be partakers of the glory of Thy kingdom. Redeem our souls from the bondage of fear, and comfort us in all our tribulations. Free us from the law of sin and death, and enable us to attain unto the liberty and peace of Thy saints. Grant us strength of faith and fortitude to follow the example of ~~John the Baptist and~~ Thy disciples, and be faithful unto death. And having the hope, that Thou wilt appear again to judge the world and deliver us from all evil, grant that we may be prepared to receive Thee with gladness, and to pass our sojourn here in daily watchfulness and prayer, that we may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before Thee, the Son of Man. Hear our prayers, O Lord, according to Thy great mercy and everlasting love. Amen.

After Scripture Lesson

Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion; for, lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the Lord. Amen.

(Zec. 2: 10)

Make ye ready the way of the Lord, make His paths straight. Amen. (Mt. 3: 3)

Closing Prayer

The same as Second Sunday in Advent. See page 46.

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II

The Christmas Season

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1. First Christmas Day

Opening Sentence

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men in whom He is well pleased. Amen. (Lk. 2: 14)

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His Name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Oh sing unto the Lord a new song; for He hath done marvellous things. Amen. (Is. 9: 6; Ps. 98: 1)

Invocation

PRAISE the Lord! The Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He hath visited and wrought redemption for His people and hath raised up a horn of salvation for us. Amen.

Opening Prayer

O COME, let us sing unto the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms!

Almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Praise be unto Thy Name for ever and ever. Thou art the God that doest wonders, that showest grace and mercy and keepest all promises. Great things hast Thou done for us and our soul is glad within us. For unto us is born ~~this day~~, in the city of David, a Saviour, who is Christ, the Lord. Therefore doth our soul rejoice at Thy great love and our heart is glad before Thee. For now we may take of Thy fullness grace for grace. And all this, O God, Thou

hast done purely out of paternal and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness on our part, for all of which we shall extol and praise Thee unto our end. Glory to Thee, O God, in the highest!

Glory to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour! Thou didst become poor, that we might be made rich. Thou didst become the son of man, that we might be made children of God. In humility Thou didst take upon Thyself the form of a servant, so that we might be renewed into the image of God. O Lord, Thou didst find us sitting in darkness and the shadow of death, and hast turned unto us the tender mercies of God and brought peace and joy which shall be unto all people. With Thee, O Lord, is peace on earth and good will among men. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He, that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

Enter, O Lord Jesus Christ, into our hearts and fill them with the gifts and grace of Thy tenderness and goodness. O Thou King of the high heavens, establish Thy rule in our hearts and save us by Thy mercy from all the misery of sin. Make us to be Thy children, and heirs of Thy Kingdom in all eternity. Grant unto us comfort in every grief, deliver us from all distress, fill us with power to resist the temptations of this world, and in our last struggle sustain us with the hope of eternal life. Have mercy on us and bless us! O sanctify unto us the preaching of Thy Word on this festal day of Thine appearance, so that we may become more firmly planted and more deeply rooted in Thee, to the praise of our Father in heaven. Amen.

After Scripture Lesson

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have eternal life. Amen. (Jn. 3: 16)

Faithful is the saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Amen. (1 Ti. 1: 15)

Closing Prayer

MOST BLESSED Lord Jesus Christ, Thou Saviour of men! For Thy deep humiliation we bring unto Thee on the day of Thine incarnation praise and honor, glory and thanksgiving. Verily, before Thee every knee in heaven, on earth and under the earth must bow, and every tongue must confess that Thou art Lord, to the glory of God, the Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Thou Saviour and King of glory, it should be our glad duty to bring unto Thee the offerings and gifts of faithful, contrite, humble and thankful hearts; but being sinful and unrighteous, we pray Thee to work in us the things that are pleasing in Thy sight.

O enter in, and be born in us today by Thy Spirit, Thou Blessed of the Lord, Thou Prince of Peace. Yea, do Thou consecrate our hearts, that they may be Thy temples.

Gather all Christian rulers about Thy manger and teach them to renew allegiance to Thee on the day of Thine incarnation. Make all preachers of Thy Word to be messengers of peace that cry: Thy God is King!

Grant, that on this anniversary of Thine incarnation all parents and teachers take to heart that Thou hast declared the children to be sacred unto Thee. May they never offend any of these little ones, but lead them unto Thee, Lord Jesus, so that from their youthful lips Thy praises might be chanted.

Have mercy on all the poor, the sick, the dejected and afflicted. Refresh them with Thy comfort. Awaken and strengthen within them the living hope of their eternal salvation, to which we have been exalted by Thy voluntary humiliation.

Grant, that all look forward to Thy last coming with good cheer and enter into the heritage of the saints in the light, there to sing unto Thee the everlasting Hallelujah. Give ear unto our prayer, O Lord, our Saviour, who makest intercession for us at the throne of Thy Father in heaven.

Amen.

2. Second Christmas Day

Opening Sentence

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. Amen. (Lk. 1: 46, 47)

Invocation

Praise be unto Thee, O God, who didst cause knowledge of salvation to be given unto Thy people in the remission of their sins, because of the tender mercy whereby the day-spring from on high hath visited us, to shine upon them that sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. Amen.

Opening Prayer

ALMIGHTY and eternal God, who hast gladdened us by the birth of Thy dearly beloved Son, we bring unto Thee praise and thanksgiving for Thy great mercy, and pray Thee to awaken in us the joy that Thou hast caused to be preached at His birth. Sanctify us by Thy Spirit, that our hearts may turn from sin unto Thee and be born again to a new life in Thee.

Lord Jesus Christ, true man and true God, we thank Thee, that Thou didst not despise to assume our flesh and blood, but hast from all eternity inseparably united Thyself with us, reconciling us to the Father and turning His heart to us in mercy. Grant that through Thine incarnation we may be reassured for all time of God's eternal love. For this we would ever praise Thee with grateful hearts.

O God, Holy Spirit, by Thy power create within us new hearts, that we may look unto Jesus with true faith, joy and comfort, to love Him like Mary, to worship and honor Him like the shepherds, and to extol and praise Him like the holy angels. Give us grace to grow in knowledge of Him. May we celebrate a joyful Christmas and for time and eternity serve Thee, O Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

After Scripture Lesson

For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God, sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh. Praise be unto Thee, O Christ. Amen. (Ro. 8:3)

The Lord reigneth; He is clothed with majesty; Thy throne is established of old: Thou art from everlasting. Amen. (Ps. 93:1, 2)

Closing Prayer

ETERNAL GOD, our heavenly Father, once more we come before Thy throne of grace to bring unto Thee our praise and thank-offering for all the good things that Thou hast daily and abundantly bestowed on us, though we are sinful. We especially thank Thee for Thy grace unto salvation that was manifested through Thy Son Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast given for our redemption as the most precious treasure of Thy redeeming love. Graciously enable us to thank Thee with whole hearts for this unspeakable gift.

Blessed Saviour, Thou Only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth, we celebrate the memory of Thy birth with joy, and in deep humility adore the mystery of godliness: God is manifest in the flesh. Reveal Thy divine life within our souls and ever remain with us, that in sanctification we may grow from grace to grace, from power to power, till we come unto Thee in eternal bliss. Thou art the God of our salvation; let Thy salvation abound in our whole land. Bless those with grace and peace to whom is entrusted the government of our country, and grant that all, whose duty it is to foster the welfare of our nation, renew their homage unto Thee on this festal day. Add power unto the testimony of Thy servants and make them messengers of peace, who bring good tidings and knowledge of salvation unto Thy people, by the remission of sins. And since Thou wast a child, grant that all parents and teachers may esteem the children highly, and beware, lest they give offense to any of the least of these little ones. Let

them lead Thy children unto Thee, that out of their youthful mouths Thy praise be chanted. Fill all the earth with Thy glory, and let Thy light arise upon all peoples that still sit in darkness and the shadow of death. Yes, from the east and west do Thou bring Thy redeemed to the blessed heritage of the saints in the light, where with them and all heavenly hosts we shall sing the eternal Hallelujah to the honor and glory of Thy holy Name. Amen.

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3. The Sunday after Christmas

Opening Sentence

This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord: I will put my law in their inward parts, and in their heart will I write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Amen. (Jer. 31: 33)

Invocation

ALMIGHTY and eternal God, who didst set Thy beloved Son for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and for a sign which is spoken against, that thoughts out of many hearts might be revealed, we pray Thee, govern us in mercy by Thy Holy Spirit, that we take no offense at Him, our only Saviour. Give us the light through the preaching of Thy Word to know our hearts, and let us awake and by His grace arise from all sleep of sin. We ask it in the Name of Thy beloved Son our Lord. Amen.

Opening Prayer

See page 21, No. 4; or page 28, No. 3.

After Scripture Lesson

Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God. Amen. (1 Jn. 3: 1)

Thus saith the Lord Jehovah, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner-stone of sure foundation: he that believeth shall not be in haste. Amen. (Is. 28: 16)

Closing Prayer

Use one of the General Prayers, pages 38 and 39.

III

The Old and the New Year

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1. The Close of the Old Year

Opening Sentence

O Lord, I am a stranger with Thee, a sojourner, as all my fathers were. Teach me Thy way, O Lord, I will walk in Thy truth: unite my heart to fear Thy name. Amen.

(Ps. 39: 12; Ps. 86: 11)

Scripture Lesson

Psalms 90 and 103.

Opening Prayer

LORD, Thou hast been our dwelling-place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God! Our life passeth away quickly as with a flood. Therefore, we come to Thee, our only helper and our eternal comfort; for Thy loving-kindness doth not depart from us, neither is Thy covenant of peace removed, O Lord, who hast mercy on us.

We thank Thee, O Lord, for all the blessings of Thy Word which Thou hast granted unto us during the past year. Thou hast visited us as often as we were gathered together in this house. Be Thou therefore with us now, when we unitedly seek Thy face. On this solemn occasion let Thy Word enter into our hearts, so that our departure from the old year and our entrance into the new may be blessed of Thee. Grant that we may close the old year in serious thoughtfulness, and begin the new in Thy Name. O Lord, let Thy face shine brightly upon us, and in the flight of time bestow upon us the most precious of gifts, Thy peace in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing Prayer

ETERNAL GOD! Thou wast before the heavens were created and the foundation of the world was laid, Thou art and wilt be from everlasting to everlasting! Our days, however, are but as handbreadths, and our life-time is as nothing before Thee. Surely every man at his best estate is altogether vanity.

We remember the days of the year now gone and humbly bow before Thee and confess, that because of Thy lovingkindness we are not consumed, because Thy compassion fails not. In countless transgressions Thou hast borne with us in patience and longsuffering, and Thy Spirit has never become weary of laboring with our hearts in awakening and disciplining, in teaching and comforting us. Even in temporal things Thou hast crowned us with Thy goodness, so that we have lacked nothing. Thou hast protected our land under the shadow of Thy wings and hast drawn us all, even in trials and afflictions, nearer to Thee. For all these benefits we honor Thy holy Name: for the lovingkindness Thou hast shown us; for the paternal care with which Thou hast sustained the poor, the widows and the orphans; for the comfort with which Thou didst refresh the sorrowing and uphold those who were distressed concerning their soul's salvation; for the relief Thou didst give unto the sick and for Thy mercy with which Thou didst support the dying. Yea, Lord, Thou hast been merciful and kind to us, while we have often abused Thy goodness and Thy longsuffering. Our conscience accuses us, O Lord, our heart condemns us.

Oh, Lord, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness and truth, cast us not away from Thy presence and take not Thy Holy Spirit from us. Forgive us our sins and transgressions; and blot them out through the blood of Thy dear Son, our Lord and Saviour. Father of love! May Thy gracious Spirit be our helper that none of us end this year without examining himself

in the light of Thy truth and humbling himself before Thee. Renew us in the spirit of our mind that we may put on the new man, created after Thee in righteousness and holiness of truth.

Eternal Father! Thy years have no end, but our time passeth away; forsake us not, neither withdraw from us Thy grace. Protect our government, those in authority and all that dwell in our land; likewise pastors and churches, teachers and scholars, parents and children, well and ill, living and dying. Teach us to number our days, that we may get us a heart of wisdom, to do Thy work before the night cometh, and we be found faithful stewards in the hour of reckoning. Lord, abide with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent. Keep us from all evil, preserve our souls. Lord, keep our going out and our coming in from this time forth and for evermore.

Amen.

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2. New Year's Day

Opening Sentence

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.—And the Lord saith, Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him; I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble: I will deliver him, and honor him. Amen. (Ps. 91: 1, 2, 14, 15)

It is of Jehovah's lovingkindnesses that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. Jehovah is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in Him. Amen. (La. 3: 22, 24)

Invocation

1. GOD, grant peace unto our land, happiness and salvation to men in all stations. Save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, be their Shepherd also and bear them up for ever. Lord, may it please Thee to bless us; for whom Thou dost bless, the same is blest for ever. Amen.

2. LORD GOD, our Father in heaven, we thank Thee that Thou didst send forth Thy Son under the law, that He might redeem them that were under the law. We pray Thee, enlighten our hearts by Thy Holy Spirit, sanctify us to walk in a new life during this new year, and at last grant us eternal life through Thy Son, who together with Thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth in all eternity.

Amen.

Opening Prayer

LORD GOD, eternal Father, we are dust and ashes, and our life is as nothing before Thee. But Thou remainest for ever, and Thy years have no end. We are sinners, and our misdeeds are manifest before Thy countenance. But Thou, Lord, art our Father and Redeemer; from everlasting this is Thy Name. Who can tell of all Thy wondrous works and praise all Thy glorious deeds! What shall we render unto Thee for all Thy benefits toward us! How sweet is Thy mercy, O God, that men may take refuge in the covert of Thy wings!

Thou art our refuge and our solace in eternity, and therefore our souls do seek Thee now at the beginning of this new year. Father of mercies! The days that shall still come to us are written in Thy book; therefore we confidently commit body and soul into Thy hands. Grant today that Thine only begotten Son may arise in our hearts as the Sun of righteousness, that bringeth light and life. Bestow upon us Thy Holy Spirit as the guide for our life's journey, that we may make straight paths for our feet and

stumble not. O Thou that watchest over Israel, who dost neither slumber nor sleep, take us again under Thy protecting care and be the light and strength of our life in all our ways. Eternal God, withdraw not Thy hand from us. We wait for Thy salvation. Lord, help us! O Lord, prosper us in all things! We ask it in Jesus' Name. Amen.

After Scripture Lesson

The world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. Amen. (1 Jn. 2: 17)

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and to-day, yea and for ever. Amen. (He. 13: 8)

Closing Prayer

ETERNAL GOD, our merciful Father in Christ Jesus our Lord! At the beginning of this new year of our pilgrimage we come before Thee with thanksgiving. We praise Thy glorious Name for the countless and unmerited mercies, which Thou hast bestowed upon us during our whole life and in particular during the year that we have just closed. Thou hast crowned us with Thy blessing and hast filled us with the abundant mercies of Thy Church. We thank Thee for preserving our lives, for Thy blessing upon our daily work, for Thy paternal care in joy and grief, for peace and prosperity, for protection and safekeeping in our whole land. Above all things we thank Thee, that Thou hast not removed the light of Thy Word from us, but hast constantly admonished us to repent and believe, and hast given us abundant opportunity to work out the salvation of our souls.

We pray Thee, merciful Father, let not Thy blessing depart from us in this new year. Take Thy Church under Thy protecting wings. Teach the ministers of Thy Word to open their mouths with gladness and to tell abroad the sweet mystery of Thy Gospel. Equip them with resolute courage to fight against the powers of darkness, and enlarge the kingdom of Jesus among men. With Thy Holy

Spirit enlighten the hearts still in darkness, bring back the erring, and strengthen in Thy grace those who have been converted, until Thou shalt set forth Thy congregation holy and undefiled. Bless, O Lord, each and every one in his daily work. Let all married people be united in Thy peace in all godliness. Place Thy blessing upon the rearing of our children, protect them from the persecutions of Satan and from the lusts of the flesh. Fill all teachers with wisdom and grace, that they may lead the children, the work of Thy hands, unto Thee, that not one of these little ones perish.

We also pray for all officers of our government throughout our land. Fill them with the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the knowledge and fear of Thy holy Name, that they may be faithful in the discharge of their sacred duties.

Merciful Father, wilt Thou especially be the help and comfort of all the poor, the distressed, the sick and the troubled. Have pity on the dying in their extreme anguish and quicken them with the Word of life. Teach us all, O gracious Lord, to number our days, that we may get us grace to apply this new year to the seeking of our soul's salvation with fear and trembling. Grant, that in our daily cares we may never forget the one thing needful, that can be taken from us neither in the changes of time, nor at the departure from this world. Hear our prayer for the sake of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

Amen.

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IV

The Day of Humiliation and Prayer

Opening Sentence

The Mighty One, God, the Lord, hath spoken, and called the earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof. Hear, O my people, and I will speak: O Israel, and I will testify unto thee: I am God, even thy God. Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me. Amen.

(Ps. 50: 1, 7, 15)

Invocation

SPARE us, O Lord, and mercifully forgive us our sins, and though by our continual transgressions we have merited Thy punishments, be gracious unto us, and grant that all those evils which we have deserved, may be turned from us, and overruled to our everlasting good, through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

Opening Prayer

ALMIGHTY and eternal God! We, Thy children, humble ourselves before Thee on this solemn day. Thou art holy and righteous, but we are sinful and of unclean hands and lips. As individuals, as a congregation, and as a people we acknowledge before Thee our transgressions. Against Thee have we sinned and done evil in Thy sight. In this hour we turn to Thee, as our heavenly Father, who art long-suffering, merciful, gracious and full of compassion. Thou hast no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. We pray Thee, O Lord, have mercy upon us according to Thy loving-kindness; according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity and cleanse us from our sin. Purge us with hyssop, and we shall be clean; wash us, and we shall be whiter than snow. Hide Thy face from our sins, and blot out all our iniquities.

O Father, give us Thy Spirit in richest measure. Create in us clean hearts and renew a right spirit within us. Restore unto us the joy of Thy salvation and uphold us with Thy free Spirit. Help us to consecrate anew our lives to Thee. Make us strong to do Thy blessed will. Lead us ever at Thy right hand. Keep us from sin. Help us to remain true to Thee, to Thy Son Jesus Christ, and to Thy holy Church, and at last receive us into Thy kingdom on high. We ask it all in the Name of our blessed Saviour.

Amen.

Closing Prayer

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER! We thank Thee for this day and for the privilege of Christian worship in this solemn hour. We thank Thee for the message from Thy Word, calling us to repentance and faith, and admonishing us to walk in the newness of life. We thank Thee that Thy Son Jesus Christ came to redeem and to save a lost world, and that in Him we have the forgiveness of our sins, the strength to fight the good fight of faith, and the glorious hope of a blessed home on high.

We ask Thee, O Lord, to grant us Thy blessing. As we leave this house of worship may we have the assurance through Thy Holy Spirit, that by the merits of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. We implore Thee also to give us power to live in accordance with Thy holy commandments. Help us to think, talk and act in harmony with Thy will. Make us strong to love Thee with a more fervent love and to serve Thee with a greater faithfulness. Thine we are; Thine will we be. Hold us close to Thee. Embrace us anew with the arms of Thy love, and when our days on earth are done, may we enter that life which knows no sin. Hear our prayer, we beseech Thee, in Jesus' Name.

Amen.

V

The Epiphany Season

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1. The Festival of Epiphany

Opening Sentence

Behold, There shall come forth a star out of Jacob, and the sceptre shall not depart from Judah, until Shiloh come; and unto Him shall the obedience of the peoples be. Amen.

(Nu. 24: 17; Gn. 49: 10)

Invocation

O GOD, who by the leading of a star didst manifest the coming of Thine only begotten Son to the Gentiles; mercifully grant that we, who have now come to know Thee here by faith, may be led to the full vision of Thy glory hereafter in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

Opening Prayer

O GOD, our heavenly Father, who art life and light, we praise Thee that Thou hast made Thine only begotten Son a blessed Light of the Gentiles, and through Him hast also called us from the darkness and shadow of death to Thy glorious light. We earnestly beseech Thee that Thou wouldst shed abroad the blessed light of Thy truth more and more. Give to Thy Son the heathen for His inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for His possession. May Thy blessed light so shine upon all hearts, that, like the wise men of old, all may bring unto Thee precious gifts: even the gold of a pure and holy faith; the frankincense of earnest and devout prayer; the myrrh of a broken and penitent heart. Inspire us, O God, to do Thy will and to be loyal to our King and Saviour, Jesus Christ our Lord. Enlighten us by His teaching. Guide us by His example. Sanctify us by His Spirit.

O Triune God, bless us now in this service. Satisfy our holy longings. Cleanse our hearts from sin. Quicken our vision that we may see the King in His beauty, and adore Him with awe and humility. Mercifully help us to walk in the light till our earthly pilgrimage is done, and then graciously receive us unto Thee, to live with Thee in the eternal light and glory of heaven.

Hear us in these supplications for the sake of our Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

After Scripture Lesson

O praise the Lord, all ye nations; laud Him, all ye peoples. Hallelujah! Amen. (Ps. 117: 1)

Praise be to God! The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. Amen. (Is. 9: 2)

Closing Prayer

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, our heavenly Father, who hast given Thy Son to be the Saviour of the world, grant that the pure light of His Gospel may overcome the darkness of idolatry in every land. May the light of Thy divine love, as revealed in the manger and on the cross, shine upon all who are still in the region and shadow of death, and draw them to Thee, the Life and Light of the world, as the star of Bethlehem drew the wise men to the Christ. Let the blessed light of Thy truth always shine upon us that we may increase in the knowledge of our Lord and King; honor, confess and worship Him throughout all the days of our life. Bless to this end anew Thy Word that has been proclaimed. Seal unto our hearts the instructions of this hour. Enable us neither to forget the precepts and promises of Thy Word, nor depart in thought or word or deed from the faith of Thy true children in Jesus Christ. And when Thy Son, our Lord, shall arise from Thy right hand to visit the earth in righteousness and Thy people with salvation, may we be found diligent in Thy service

that we may enter with Him and all saints into the glory of our Lord. And all this we ask for the sake of Him whom Thou hearest always, to whom, with Thee, the Father, and Thee, O blessed Spirit, one God, be everlasting praise, honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

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2. First Sunday after Epiphany

Opening Sentence

I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts. The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former. And the Lord, whom ye seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the Messenger of the covenant, whom ye desire, behold, He cometh, saith the Lord of hosts. Amen. (Hag. 2: 7, 9; Mal. 3: 1)

Prayer

HEAVENLY FATHER, we adore Thee as the Light in whom is no darkness at all. Thou art the fountain of life and peace, and in Thy presence is fullness of joy. We thank Thee that Thou hast sent forth Thine only begotten Son to be the Light of the world and to shine unto all that dwell in the land of the shadow of death. May the light of His Gospel speedily scatter the darkness of heathenism and bring all nations to Thee that they might live and not die. To this end, heavenly Father, revive and quicken our languid faith, and make the last charge of the Master ever to ring in our ears, Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.

Merciful Saviour, who sittest at the right hand of the Father and makest intercession for us , we thank Thee that Thou didst come into the world as a Saviour to save us from sin. We praise Thee that Thou hast purchased our pardon through Thy blood, and dost bestow upon all, who in faith come to Thee, the power to become sons of God. Make us wholly Thine, O Lord. Help us to love and serve Thee faithfully all our days.

Holy Spirit, Spirit of wisdom and of power, help our infirmities. Enable us to run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith.

O Triune God, receive us graciously, as we draw nigh to Thee in this hour. Visit us with Thy blessing. Cleanse us from all sin. Illumine us by Thy grace. Enable us to worthily show forth Thy praise, and to render unto Thee due thanks for all Thy mercies. We ask it in Jesus' Name.

Amen.

✠

I. Second Sunday after Epiphany

Opening Sentence

Thus saith the Lord: Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Amen. (Is. 55: 1)

Prayer

O GOD, our heavenly Father, we give Thee thanks that Thou hast unveiled Thyself to the minds and hearts of Thy children, and hast made Thy presence known from the beginning of the world. We praise Thee that Thou hast crowned the revelation of Thyself in Thy well-beloved Son, Jesus Christ. In Him dost Thou show Thyself to us as a loving and merciful Father; and furthermore, in Him, the Saviour, dost Thou show us to ourselves as children of Thine and heirs of salvation. Give unto us, we beseech Thee, such a recognition of Thy Fatherhood, as shall move us to a filial trust in Thee and to a fraternal interest in each other. We pray Thee, that all people may soon come to know of Him who is the Light and Desire of all nations, and that the knowledge of the glory of the Lord shall cover the earth, as the waters cover the sea. To this end prosper the labors of Thy servants o'er all the earth. Lay upon our own hearts the sorrows of our fellow-men who are still in superstition and sin, and enable us to pray and labor mightily for their liberation and enlightenment. Make us

willing, O God, to be made holy. Fill us with the sweetness and the graciousness of the Christ whose Name we bear. Let Thy blessing now come upon this congregation. May our worship deepen the impress of Thine image upon our nature, and may all our service redound to Thy glory. Hear us and answer us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

✠

4. Third Sunday after Epiphany

Opening Sentence

O Lord, do not Thine eyes look upon truth? They looked unto Him, and were radiant; and their faces shall never be confounded. Amen. (Jer. 5: 3; Ps. 34: 5)

Prayer

OUR GOD and Father, we thank Thee, that Thou art the source of life and light and love. We bless Thee for all that Thou hast done for us and for the many ways of mercy Thou hast led us. O give unto us with these gifts a heart to love Thee and to bow in obedience and faith to Thy will. Graciously take all malice, bitterness and hatred from our lives, and help us to gain the simple childlike spirit which trusts and believes, even if it cannot understand. O Thou Light of the world, shine Thou into our hearts and make them pure and holy. Help us to be light-bearers. Grant that we may be sincerely interested in all the efforts that are being made to elevate men and women, and to relieve suffering humanity. Enable us to meet all problems of life with wise and constructive sympathy and help. Teach us, we pray Thee, the blessedness of unselfish service. Inspire us to holier motives and greater deeds in Thy service.

Bless us now in this hour of worship. Bless all the services of this day. Bless the precious work of grace everywhere. Let Thy truth be mighty and prevail gloriously, wherever it is preached to-day, and grant that the time may speedily come, when the kingdoms of the world shall become the kingdoms of our Lord. We ask it in Christ's Name and for His sake. Amen.

VI

The Lenten Season

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1. Opening Sentences for Lenten Services

I will cry unto God Most High, unto God that performeth all things for me. Yea, in the shadow of Thy wings will I take refuge, until these calamities be overpast. Amen. (Ps. 57: 1, 2)

He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not also with Him freely give us all things? Amen. (Ro. 8: 32)

But God commendeth His own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Amen. (Ro. 5: 8)

Christ is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the whole world. Amen. (1 Jn. 2: 2)

Thus saith the Lord, Thou hast burdened me with thy sins, thou hast wearied me with thine iniquities. Amen. (Is. 43: 24)

Thus saith the Lord, I will establish my covenant with thee; and thou shalt know that I am the Lord; that thou mayest remember, and be confounded, and never open thy mouth any more, because of thy shame, when I have forgiven thee all that thou hast done. Amen. (Ezek. 16: 62, 63)

Thus saith the Lord, The year of my redeemed is come. Zion shall be redeemed with justice, and her converts with righteousness. Israel shall be saved by the Lord with an everlasting salvation. Amen. (Is. 63: 4; 1: 27; 45: 17)

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2. Prayers for Midweek Lenten Services

Beginning with Ash Wednesday,
the First Day of Lent.

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1. ALMIGHTY GOD, Creator and Ruler of the universe, Thy boundless mercy permits us to observe once more the season of Lent. Thou wouldst have us realize anew that the promise of old has been fulfilled. Thou wouldst have us concentrate our thoughts on the sacrifice made in our behalf, and have us recall the proof of Thy great love for fallen and sinful man. Thou didst so love the world, that Thou gavest Thine only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. Thou didst send Christ that He might reveal unto the world the plan of salvation, pay the penalty of sin, and reconcile man unto Thee. O God, accept our thanks for this manifestation of Thy love. Grant, we beseech Thee, that as we obtain knowledge of the importance of the sacrifice made for us, we may be induced to love Thee with all our heart, and soul, and strength, and mind, and regard Thee as a Father, who pitieth His children, and seeketh not only their temporal but also their eternal welfare. Amen.

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2. O LORD, Thou Son of the Most High, Saviour and Redeemer of man, thanks be unto Thee for coming into this wicked and sin-polluted world in order to seek and to save that which was lost. Thou didst leave Thy throne to become the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world. Thou, who art pure and undefiled, without spot or blemish, hast come to dwell with sinners and to suffer the penalty for sin. We praise Thee that by word and deed Thou art leading man out of sin into righteousness, out of darkness into light. Blessed be Thy holy Name that by

Thy suffering and death on the cross Thou hast purchased our pardon and secured our redemption. Grant, we beseech Thee, that we may more fully realize, that love for sinful man was the motive which prompted Thee to humble Thyself and to become obedient unto death, yea, the death of the cross. Help us to be truly grateful. Help us to love Thee in return, to seek Thee with all our heart, and find in Thee our all in all. Amen.

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3. LORD JESUS, our Redeemer and Master, surely Thou hast borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. Thou wast wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon Thee, and with Thy stripes we are healed. Thou wast oppressed and afflicted, despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. In our stead didst Thou endure, suffer and die, thereby paying the penalty for our sins. O Lord, accept our sincerest thanks. Grant, we pray Thee, that we may realize our sinful condition. Help us to remember that we sin daily by word, thought and deed. Move us from on high, that we may humble ourselves before God, our Creator, and through Thee seek His forgiveness and pardon. Take away from us all pride and selfishness; purify us; give us penitent and contrite hearts. Grant that we may experience that godly sorrow, which worketh repentance unto salvation; a repentance, which bringeth no regret. Reveal unto us our weakness and imperfection and help us to realize, that Thou art the source of power and strength, and that with Thee alone we may live better and more useful lives. Amen.

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4. MOST GRACIOUS and merciful God, we appreciate Thy lovingkindness and are truly grateful unto Thee for sending Jesus Christ, Thy Son, into this world, so that

He could become the propitiation for our sins. We thank Thee that Thou didst give Him power and courage to patiently endure all trials and sufferings, so that He could successfully perform Thy holy will, accomplish the work of redemption, deliver us and all men from the bonds of sin and Satan, and save us from spiritual and eternal death. O Father, how great is Thy love for fallen and wayward man! Thou dost brighten and sweeten his earthly life by bestowing upon him the bread of heaven and water of life, inviting him to partake of these freely. Thou dost reveal unto him, that eternal joy and happiness shall be his portion, if he accept Jesus Christ, who paid the penalty for all sins. May it be deeply impressed upon our minds, that we have been bought with a price, even the precious blood of Christ our Saviour. Induce us to meditate on His sufferings and death, to the end that we may abhor sin, detest the world, and fully accept Thy Son as our Lord and Master, and through Him find Thee, the God of love and mercy.

Amen.

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5. LORD JESUS, our Master and King, Thou didst submit to scorn and mockery, cruelties and insults, sufferings and death, in order to pay the debt which we owed to God, the Father. Without murmur and without complaint didst Thou pay the price for the salvation of our immortal souls. Thou hast opened for us the way to God, and removed every barrier which separated us from Him. Thou hast thrown open the portals of Paradise, our heavenly home, that we may enter and be redeemed and saved for all eternity. Grant, we pray Thee, that it may be brought to our realization, that it required no small effort on Thy part to accomplish the work of redemption, but that for Thee it meant humiliation, sacrifice and full surrender. Thou didst gladly and willingly submit, because of Thy great love for us. In return Thou wouldst have us love and serve Thee, above all things. Enable us, heavenly Sa-

viour, to serve Thee by serving others. Give us grace that we may be Christians in word and deed, and present ourselves approved unto God as fishers of men and diligent workers in Thy vineyard, and thus try to pay the debt of love we owe unto Thee. Amen.

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6. HEAVENLY FATHER, we thank Thee for Thy precious Word, which reveals unto us Thy love for man, and conveys unto us an idea regarding the inestimable value of the human soul. It is Thy desire that man should not perish, but be obedient to Thy holy will and abide for ever. Thou didst send Thy Son into this world to become for man an example of a faithful and loyal servant. May we profit by His coming. May we heed His warnings and accept His advice. May His words be unto us not foolishness, but a power unto salvation, a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. Help us to love Him who gave Himself for us and suffered and died in our stead, thus reconciling us with Thee, our God and Father. May we have faith in the cleansing power of His blood. It alone can purify us and blot out all our sins. Help us to remember what it cost Thee and Thy Son to redeem mankind. Grant, that these sacrifices may not have been brought for us in vain. May we in the future put forth greater efforts to overcome temptation and to resist the evil one, and be faithful and loyal to Thee, to Christ and the Holy Spirit, so that, finally, with all Thy saints we may be gathered into Thy heavenly kingdom, where we shall praise and glorify Thee, the Triune God, from everlasting to everlasting. Amen.

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3. Sentences after the Scripture Lesson

We love, because He first loved us. Amen. (1 Jn. 4: 19)

The blood of Jesus His Son cleanseth us from all sin. Amen. (1 Jn. 1: 7)

Behold, the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world! Amen. (Jn. 1: 29)

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us. Amen. (Gal. 3: 13)

The Son of man came to seek and to save that which was lost. Amen. (Lk. 19: 10)

As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up; that whosoever believeth may in Him have eternal life. Amen. (Jn. 3: 14, 15)

For while we were yet weak, in due season Christ died for the ungodly. Amen. (Ro. 5: 6)

The word of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us who are saved it is the power of God. Amen. (1 Co. 1: 18)

God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself, not reckoning unto them their trespasses, and having committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Amen. (2 Co. 5: 19)

Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Amen. (1 Jn. 4: 10)

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4. Sunday Services during the Lenten Season

A. First Sunday in Lent—*Invocavit*

Opening Sentence

He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not also with Him freely give us all things? Amen. (Ro. 8: 32)

Invocation

ALMIGHTY and eternal God, who didst permit Thy Son, Jesus Christ, to be made a curse for us, grant that we may be enabled to humbly and gratefully consider His suffering and death, and that, being delivered from the curse of the law, we may through Thy mercy have the redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins. Amen.

Prayer

MOST MERCIFUL God and Father! Through Thy grace we may again enjoy the manifold spiritual blessings of this holy Lenten season into which we have just entered. We have united to contemplate the life and death of Thy Son, our Lord and Saviour, who for our sake fasted forty days and forty nights, was tempted like as we are, yet without sin, but in all His sufferings served Thee alone, and thereby conquered and prevailed. Thou God of our salvation, who didst set Him forth a propitiation for our sins, grant that in loving gratitude we may behold the Author and Perfecter of our faith in all His power and beauty.

Thou, our Saviour, art strong in holiness; we are weak in sin. Thou didst conquer all temptations, but we are daily subdued by the sinful desires of our mortal body. May we for ever love Thee, and call upon Thee, as our only strength and salvation. May we receive the fruits of Thy faith and obedience, that being crucified unto our flesh, we may live unto Thee in true righteousness and holiness. And as Thou didst call upon Thy heavenly Father in all

Thy painful sufferings, thereby obtaining victory and glory, so may we for ever be assured of Thy merciful intercession, and, thus comforted and abundantly strengthened, prevail in all our struggles against sin; until finally united with Thee, we shall dwell with Thee in the mansions of the righteous, for ever and ever. Amen.

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B. Second Sunday in Lent—*Reminiscere*

Opening Sentence

He is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the whole world. Amen. (1 Jn. 2: 2)

Invocation

MOST HOLY and loving Father! Have pity upon us for all our sins and errors; deliver us and purify us from all our iniquities, and enable us through Thy Holy Spirit to serve and glorify Thee in all holiness and righteousness. Amen.

Prayer

WE THANK Thee, O heavenly Father, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, that in everlasting lovingkindness Thou didst have mercy on us in our sins, and didst not spare Thine only Son, delivering Him up for us all, that we might have eternal life.

Lord Jesus, most glorious and beloved Redeemer! Grant, that we may be made mindful not only of our sins and iniquities, but also of Thy love and compassion. Thou hast been despised, and rejected of men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. Thou hast borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows. Thou hast been wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon Thee, and with Thy stripes are we healed. Thou hast been obedient unto death, yea, the death of the cross. Lord, Thou Son of God, may Thy Holy Spirit glorify Thee in our hearts and lives, leading

us unto repentance and faith, true love and gratitude. Help us, that Thy suffering and death may enable us to die unto sin, to bring forth fruits worthy of repentance, and to walk in righteousness and holiness well-pleasing unto God.

Jesus, Thou Son of David, have mercy upon us! Comfort us, as we come to Thee with a broken and contrite heart; and at the end of our days, receive us into the abodes prepared and opened for us in Thy grace and mercy.

Amen.

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C. Third Sunday in Lent—*Oculi*

Opening Sentence

Jesus Christ gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a people for His own possession, zealous of good works. Amen. (Tit. 2: 14)

Invocation

LORD JESUS, our Saviour and Redeemer, who didst take upon Thyself our sins, and didst bear them in Thy body on the cross: we beseech Thee, grant us Thy Spirit to reprove us of our sins, to comfort us and teach us, Thy servants, to Thine honor and our salvation. Amen.

Prayer

O MOST GRACIOUS Saviour, Thou Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world, we heartily thank Thee for all Thy love and mercy which has been revealed to us in all Thy words and deeds, Thy life and death. Thou hast become the only comfort and salvation to all who have been cleansed by Thy precious blood; and with countless multitudes we to-day extol Thy Name, wherein alone man can be saved.

Father of mercy, abundant in lovingkindness, we offer to Thee our heartfelt thanks, because in Thine eternal love Thou hast made Thy Son the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the whole world. Thou

art willing with Him freely to give us all things. His eyes were constantly lifted up to Thee, and Thou wast ever ready to listen to His prayers. Thine eyes beheld Him, and truly in Him Thou wast well pleased.

But, most righteous God, Thou lookest down upon the children of men, and findest that there is none that doeth good, no, not one. We are all corrupt, and we all have gone astray. Oh, direct our eyes to be lifted up in true repentance to Him, who was crucified. We implore His mercy, that we may be converted and live; and may Thy grace for ever lead us to renounce all ungodliness and worldly lusts, to live soberly and godly, and to look for the glory of Him, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who with Thee and the Holy Spirit reigneth one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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D. Fourth Sunday in Lent—*Laetare*

Opening Sentence

Him who knew no sin He made to be sin on our behalf; that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. Amen.
(2 Co. 5: 21)

Invocation

ETERNAL GOD and Father, mercifully grant that, reconciled unto Thyself and delivered from the kingdom of darkness, we may faithfully follow the example of our Saviour's humble obedience and patient suffering, and finally obtain the inheritance of His eternal kingdom. Amen.

Prayer

MOST GRACIOUS and merciful Father, we thank Thee, that through the gift of Thy Son, Thou hast brought joy into a world of sin and sorrow. Our spirits rejoice in God our Saviour, for Thou hast mercifully looked upon our low estate and hast filled the hungry with life and salvation.

Thou, in truth, Lord Jesus, art the Prophet and Saviour, that was to come into the world to live and die for

those held in bondage. Thou hast made us free, and in Thee have we become the children of promise. We pray that Thou, whom we rejoice to honor as our only strength and solace, mayest mercifully look upon us, Thy people, and sustain us in true faith, hope and charity. Grant us Thy Spirit, to glorify Thee within us, that in true willingness to serve Thee, we may daily die unto sin and rise unto righteousness. Let us joyfully and gratefully consecrate our lives unto Thee as a living and well-pleasing sacrifice. Lead us into light and truth, that Thou mayest rejoice in beholding us as Thy faithful servants, who finally may enter into the joy of their Lord. We ask Thee to hear our prayers, Thou Son of God, most merciful Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

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E. Fifth Sunday in Lent—*Judica*

Opening Sentence

Looking unto Jesus the Author and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the Cross, despising shame, and hath sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Amen. (He. 12: 2)

Invocation

LORD JESUS, most merciful Redeemer, our perfect High Priest and Mediator: help us to come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find help in time of need. Amen.

Prayer

MOST JUST and holy God, who didst judge Thy Son and plead His cause against an ungodly nation, we ask Thee to look mercifully upon us, the sinful and unrighteous. We all like sheep have gone astray and are all deserving to be punished. But Thou hast made Him who knew no sin, to be sin on our behalf, that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. He, truly, has been made unto us wisdom from God, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.

Our heavenly Father, we most humbly pray: Judge me, O Lord, search me, O God, and know my heart; see, if there is any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting. Teach us to know ourselves. Lead us unto repentance, that judging ourselves we be not judged and condemned. Let us for ever remember Jesus and Him crucified, that our conscience may be purged from dead works to serve Thee, the living God. May our Saviour's precious suffering and death for ever remain our comfort and consolation in all trials and adversities; and grant, that by means of His death we may at last come to the inheritance of the redeemed. This we humbly ask in the Name of Jesus, Thy Son, our Saviour. Amen.

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F. Sixth Sunday in Lent—*Palmarum*

Opening Sentence

Awake, awake, put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem. Shake thyself from the dust; arise, sit on thy throne, O Jerusalem: loose thyself from the bonds of thy neck, O captive daughter of Zion. Amen. (Is. 52: 1, 2)

Invocation

O MOST merciful Father, who didst make Thy Son, our Saviour, unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption, and hast set Him, the King of kings, at Thine own right hand, grant, we beseech Thee, that we may receive and honor Him our Lord and King, follow His footsteps unto our end, and, at last, be glorified with Him in His everlasting kingdom. Amen.

Prayer

WE THANK Thee, almighty and everlasting God, for all Thy tender compassion in which through Thy beloved Son Thou hast delivered us out of the power of darkness to grant us the forgiveness of sins.

We thank Thee, our Saviour, that Thou didst take upon Thee the form of a servant, humbling Thyself and becoming obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Thou hast been highly exalted; Thou hast been made King and Lord of glory. Oh, enter, we pray Thee, into our hearts and the hearts of these children, who are to renew their baptismal covenant; fill them with gratitude for all Thou hast done and suffered, that, growing firm in faith, hope and love, they may rejoice in Thy precious communion.

O Spirit of truth, our Comforter, teach us and our children the precious truths of our faith. Grant us and all men Thy heavenly light, that we may grasp the full meaning of our misery and of our Saviour's unbounded love. Assist us and our confirmands to honor Him in true and faithful service, to make a good confession before men, and to keep His commandments without spot, and unrebukable. Open the hearts of those still ignorant of the Name above all names, and lead them to know and follow the Captain of their salvation.

Most glorious Triune God! Enrich us in all knowledge, strengthen our faith, deliver us out of all temptations and enable us to become faithful in all righteousness, in godliness, love, patience and meekness. Receive us at last into Thine everlasting kingdom, where with the innumerable multitudes of heaven we shall join, saying: Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

After Scripture Lesson

To the only God our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and power, before all time, and now, and for evermore. Amen. (Jude 25)

Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest. Amen. (Mt. 21: 9)

Closing Prayer

LORD GOD Almighty, merciful Father! Thou didst so love the world, that Thou gavest Thine only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Without this Thy love we would all be lost, but Thou hast delivered our souls from the pit of corruption; Thou hast cast all our sins behind Thee.

Lord Jesus, Thou Son of God! Thou art the propitiation for our sins and for the sins of the whole world.

Spirit of the Father and of the Son! Glorify Christ's passion for us and open our hearts for the Gospel of the cross, that it may prove its power and wisdom in us.

Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion; shout, O Daughter of Jerusalem; behold, thy King cometh unto thee; He is just and having salvation. Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest!

O Lord, our Saviour! Give us grace to recognize Thee as our Lord and King, to whom the Father gave a Name above every name, that at Thy Name every knee should bow, of things in heaven and things on earth and things under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Thou art Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Mercifully take away the veil from the face of Israel, that they may acknowledge Thee as their promised Messiah, and serve Thee. Extend Thy kingdom among all nations of the earth. Let the blessing of Thy cross come upon them, that all may bow before Thy sceptre and rejoice in Thee, the God of their salvation. Remember us and abide with us. Let the message of Thy suffering and death be especially blessed in this week, that we may rejoice anew in the fact of our redemption, and thereby be strengthened, henceforth to live not unto ourselves, but unto Thee, who didst die and rise again for us. Amen.

5. Services for Maundy Thursday

Opening Sentence

He hath made His wonderful works to be remembered: the Lord is gracious and merciful. He hath given food unto them that fear Him: He will ever be mindful of His covenant. Amen.
(Ps. 111: 4, 5)

Prayer

O LORD, our Saviour, direct our thoughts now and always to Thy holy passion, which Thou didst endure for our sins amidst unspeakable anguish in Gethsemane. May Thy great agony move us to a complete self-surrender to Thee and to faithful service unto death. Unite us with Thee in faith until our will, like Thine, become a pleasing sacrifice, and we suffer willingly, whatever may be allotted to us. Let Thy blood cleanse us from all pollution of the flesh and the spirit. And as Thou didst humbly kneel to worship Thy Father, so make us humble before Thee, that we may renounce all pride and selfishness. Help us to watch and pray, that we enter not into temptation; and quicken us again, as Thou didst Thy disciples, when we are inclined to rely too much upon ourselves. And though in our tribulation and in the hour of death our heart should be filled with fear and anguish, help us still to be faithful unto the end. Blessed Saviour, Thou didst offer up Thyself for us with strong crying and tears; stand by us in all temptations and intercede for us as our eternal High Priest. Thou art merciful and hast compassion with our weakness, because Thou wast tempted in all things, as we are, yet without sin. Therefore, help us in all distress and every conflict, that we may finally gain the victory and obtain the crown of life. We ask it all by virtue of Thy great sorrow and suffering. Amen.

Scripture Lesson

Jesus washing His disciples' feet. (Jn. 13: 1—17.)

Closing Prayer

LORD JESUS, Saviour of the world, we thank Thee, that in the darkest night of Thy suffering Thou didst institute the Sacrament of Holy Communion. In the blessed bread and wine Thou dost offer us Thy body and blood to revive the memory of Thy death, and to nourish Thy divine life in us. Thou hast prepared the feast of grace to refresh our souls, and dost give us the assurance, that no one shall be cast out who cometh to Thee in repentance and faith. Therefore we rejoice, and all men and angels praise Thy holy Name. Thou, the Son of God, hast given Thyself for us and dost grant us a most precious pledge of our salvation.

Merciful Saviour, we pray Thee, keep us, that we may never esteem lightly this great blessing. Awaken in us, whenever we approach Thine altar, a holy sincerity to examine ourselves penitently and conscientiously; and grant that through this holy Sacrament our faith may be increased, our love strengthened, and our salvation established unto eternal life, when we shall praise and glorify Thee, world without end. Amen.

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6. Services for Good Friday

Opening Sentences

Worthy is the Lamb that hath been slain to receive the power, and riches, and wisdom, and might, and honor, and glory, and blessing. Amen. (Rev. 5: 12)

Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed. Amen. (Is. 53: 4, 5)

Invocations

1. Almighty God, we beseech Thee graciously to behold Thy Church, for which our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given up into the hands of wicked men, and to suffer death upon the cross; but who now liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

2. Merciful and everlasting God, who hast not spared Thine only Son, but delivered Him up for us all, that He might bear our sins upon the cross; grant that our hearts may so be fixed on Him with steadfast faith, that we may not fear the power of any adversaries. We ask it in the Name of Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

3. Almighty and everlasting God, who hast willed that Thy Son should bear for us the pains of the cross, that Thou mightest remove from us the power of the adversary; help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's passion that we may obtain remission of sin and redemption from everlasting death. We ask it in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Opening Prayers

1. WORTHY is the Lamb that hath been slain to receive the power, and riches, and wisdom, and might, and honor, and glory, and blessing, now and for ever.

Lord God, our heavenly Father, we humbly worship Thee, for Thou hast made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. Father, have mercy on us and graciously accept our supplications. Thou didst not spare Thine own Son, but didst deliver Him up for us all, how shouldest Thou not also with Him freely give us all things? Therefore, we pray Thee, help us to incline our hearts unto Him, who died for us on the cross and purchased forgiveness and grace with His blood.

Praise and thanksgiving be unto Thee, Lord Jesus, our Saviour, who didst love us unto death, even the death of the cross. We glorify Thee for having redeemed us with Thy precious blood, whereby we became children and heirs of God. Thou wast obedient to the Father even in the darkest gloom of Calvary, and on the cross didst finish the work of our redemption. We bless Thee, O Christ, Thou only Mediator between God and man. We bless Thy holy Name for all Thou didst endure for us; for every burden Thou didst bear; for every battle Thou didst fight; for every tear Thou didst shed; for every agony Thou didst suffer; for every word of consolation and benediction Thou didst utter on the cross. Glory, everlasting glory, be unto Thee for the victory, which Thou didst gain.

O merciful God and Father, bless this holy day, commemorating the atoning death of our Lord for us and for all people who call on Thee. Give Thy servants convincing power in presenting the message of Thy wonderful love, that the preaching of the cross in sincerity and truth may redound to Thine eternal praise and glory. Amen.

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2. WE thank Thee, dear Lord Jesus, Thou holy and merciful Saviour, that Thou didst redeem us poor sinners from the power and the penalty of sin by Thy vicarious suffering and death. In ourselves we find neither virtue nor worthiness. But, O Lord, how great was Thy passion, how intense Thine anguish, how bitter and painful Thy death, and how unspeakable Thy love, whereby Thou hast reconciled us with God.

Thou wast forsaken by all Thy disciples; bound by wicked hands; falsely accused before unjust judges; condemned, spat upon, mocked and smitten. Thou wast scourged, and crowned with thorns; numbered with the transgressors; and made a curse on the cross for us. Thy

hands and feet were pierced by nails, and in Thine extreme thirst vinegar mingled with gall was offered Thee. At last, when Thy heart broke in death, Thou didst commend Thy spirit into Thy Father's hands. Thus didst Thou, O holy and righteous Mediator, pay our debt, that we might be healed with Thy stripes.

For all this martyrdom and agony of Thy soul we praise and thank Thee. We pray Thee, let not Thy suffering be in vain for us, but rather grant, that it may fortify our conscience against all temptation. Let us consider Thy passion, that all evil lust may be quenched within us, and that we, being dead unto sin, may live unto righteousness, and through Thy death may enter into eternal life, there to behold Thee in Thy divine glory. Amen.

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The Seven Words

3. LORD JESUS! In spirit we approach Thy cross and marvel at the mystery of Thine ineffable love. O let the sacred seven words, which dying Thou didst speak, become divine power and wisdom in our souls. Impart to us the blessing of Thine atoning death, which Thou didst leave us as a legacy in these words.

Our merciful High Priest! On the cross Thou didst ask forgiveness for Thine enemies; O intercede for us as our sympathizing Advocate. Whenever we repent and call on Thee, as did the malefactor at Thy side, give us the assurance of pardon, and grant us a blissful vision of Thy kingdom of grace and glory. As dying Thou didst unite Thy mother with Thy beloved disciple, so unite us also with our kindred by the bonds of love and peace. Thou who wast forsaken of God because of our iniquity, forsake us not when God hides His face, and our soul longs for comfort. Refresh us with the water of life when we languish in sickness, when our tongue is parched and our strength fails. And because Thou, O Lord, hast included the course and

consummation of Thy followers in Thy triumphant cry, It is finished: therefore strengthen our faith that, trusting in Thine all-sufficient sacrifice, we may commend our spirit into Thy hands, yea, into the hands of the Father. Let Thy meritorious atonement comfort us in every tribulation of our pilgrimage, that we may live, suffer and die to Thy glory and remain Thine own in eternity. Amen.

Scripture Lesson

Behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow, which is brought upon me! And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my hire; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my hire thirty pieces of silver.—Unrighteous witnesses rise up; they ask me of things I know not.—They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of my head: they that would cut me off, being mine enemies wrongfully, are mighty: that which I took not away I have to restore.—I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people. All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head.—For my love they are my adversaries: but I give myself unto prayer.—I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.—I was wounded in the house of my friends.—I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted within me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and Thou hast brought me into the dust of death. For dogs have compassed me: a company of evil-doers have inclosed me; they pierced my hands and my feet. I may count all my bones. They look and stare upon me; they part my garments among them, and upon my vesture do they cast lots.—I am weary with my crying; my throat is dried.—Reproach hath broken my heart; and I am full of heaviness: and I looked for some to take pity, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none. They gave me also gall for my food; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.—Thou hast burdened me with thy sins, thou hast wearied me with thine iniquities. Amen.

(La. 1: 12. Zec. 11: 12. Ps. 35: 11. Ps. 22: 6, 7. Ps. 109: 4, 5. Is. 50: 6. Zec. 13: 6. Ps. 22: 14—18. Ps. 69: 3. Ps. 69: 20, 21. Is. 43: 24.)

After Scripture Lesson

Behold, the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world! Amen. (Jn. 1: 29)

Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us! Amen.

Closing Prayers

1. HOLY and almighty God! We pray Thee, look favorably upon Thy Church, for which Thy Son Jesus Christ suffered death on the cross. Let us share in the remission of sins, so dearly bought; cleanse us of all iniquity through the blood of Thy Son; sanctify us, that we may be dead unto sin, and live and serve Thee only.

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and in Him also our Father! Graciously accept the prayers which we bring before Thee, for the Church and all its members; for ourselves and all people. Fill the pastors and teachers with the love of Jesus Christ for sinful men. Bless the ministry of reconciliation. Re-unite all the faithful at the cross of Jesus, by the spirit of peace, and grant, that they be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Arouse the impenitent to repentance, that they also participate in the redemption accomplished by Christ Jesus. Make the preaching of the cross a power of God for those who do not believe in the Saviour of sinners, that they be saved from their sins. Hearken to all who sorrow and mourn, in whatever need or distress they call upon Thee; yea, help us in all troubles, for Jesus' sake.

Merciful Father! On this great day of atonement we pray for all men and all nations who do not yet believe in the blessed Name of Jesus. Glorify Thy grace in them, and cause them to accept the Gospel of peace, when they hear the message, Be ye reconciled to God!

Lord Jesus! Thou great Shepherd of the sheep! Thou didst sacrifice Thy life for the salvation of all men; gather the sheep still without Thy fold, that there may be

one Shepherd and one flock; that every knee may bow before Thee, and every tongue confess that Thou art Lord, to the glory of God the Father. O Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world, have mercy on us and give us Thy peace! Amen.

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2. O LORD Jesus Christ, who by Thy holy and innocent sufferings didst procure for us poor sinners the grace of Thy heavenly Father, and didst bring back to us everlasting life, we most heartily thank Thee for Thy bitter sufferings and death, and the great love which Thou didst thereby show us. Preserve us, we beseech Thee, in Thine everlasting love. Grant us grace of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may with truly grateful hearts acknowledge the benefits of Thy redemption. May we be strengthened in our faith, cheered in our hope, inspired with sincere love to Thee, encouraged to be patient in all our trials and afflictions, and to persevere in our obedience to Thy good and gracious will. Help us to die unto sin and live unto Thee, and to serve Thee in righteousness and true holiness all the days of our lives. All of this we ask through the merits of Thy bitter sufferings and death, O Christ, who livest and reignest eternally with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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3. O LORD, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, we give Thee hearty thanks, that of Thy great mercy to a sinful world, Thou didst not spare Thine only begotten Son, but hast delivered Him up for us all, that through Him we might be restored to everlasting life and happiness. Surely, He hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Help us to remember and give thanks for our Lord's passion, that we may obtain remission of sin. May this holy season of Lent prompt us never to forget what our Saviour accomplished for us, when He languished on the cross and Himself tasted the awful agonies of death. May we thereby at all times be reminded of what we owe to Him: a thankful heart and faithful love, true repentance of our sins, and a life pleasing in His sight. In the duty of the day strengthen and sustain us; and, in the night of affliction and trouble, may we look to Thee, beloved Saviour. Comfort us with the assurance that Thou wilt wipe away all tears from our eyes. And when we come to the dark valley of the shadow of death, be Thou our Guide and Comforter, and bring us to the regions of endless day. We commit ourselves entirely to Thy gracious will; and whether we rejoice or sorrow, whether we live or die, may we be mercifully accepted at the throne of everlasting peace and glory. Amen.

VII

The Easter Season

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1. Easter Sunday

Opening Sentences

Blessed be Jesus Christ! The Lord is risen. Hallelujah. Amen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Death is swallowed up in victory. Thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Invocation

ALMIGHTY God, who through the death of Thy Son didst overcome sin and death, and through His resurrection hast brought to light life and immortality, that we, redeemed from the power of Satan, might live in Thy kingdom; help us, we beseech Thee, to believe with all our hearts the blessed story of the resurrection, to abide in this faith continually, and bless and praise Thee always, through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

Opening Prayers

1. GREAT and almighty God, we praise Thee for the glorious consummation of the work of our redemption. In Thine infinite mercy Thou hast given Thine only begotten Son into the bitter pain of death on the cross; He was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities. And when Thou hadst made His soul an offering for sin, Thou didst raise Him again on the third day and bring Him from the dead as the great Shepherd of His sheep. Therefore, O Lord, we and all Thy believers do today proclaim Thy glory with praise and thanksgiving, and rejoice, that Christ, our Passover, sacrificed for us, is raised from the dead through the power of God. He over-

came death, is risen, and liveth now for evermore. The stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner; this was from the Lord, and it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day which the Lord hath made, we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Merciful God, accept our offering of praise. Thou art able to do abundantly above all that we ask. Bless us to-day according to Thy power in which Thou hast raised up Christ from the dead, and made Him to sit at Thy right hand. Unto Thy great Name be honor and praise for ever in the Church which is in Christ Jesus.

Lord Jesus, Thou mighty Conqueror of death, our hearts rejoice because of Thy glorious resurrection, whereby Thou hast abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light. May the message of Thy resurrection live in our hearts, that its blessed fruits: peace, joy and life eternal, may be made manifest in us and through us, in life and death. Through the power of the Holy Spirit help us to rise and walk with Thee in the newness of life, until, at the end of our days, we may see Thee face to face in Thine eternal glory. Amen.

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2. LORD JESUS, Almighty Son of God, we render unto Thee thanksgiving and praise for Thine infinite love which prompted Thee to suffer the death of the Cross. Thou hast made atonement for our sins, thereby overcoming even the power of death. Gloriously Thou didst arise from the tomb and bring life and immortality to light. On this anniversary of Thy great victory we beseech Thee to so strengthen our faith that we may never doubt that Thou hast conquered in our stead sin, Satan and death. Give us, we pray Thee, the blessed assurance, that we also may conquer, and day by day walk in the newness of life. Fill our hearts with the conviction that our bodies likewise shall rise from the grave and be clothed with immortality.

Grant, that the Easter message of Thy glorious resurrection may strengthen the hearts of all who struggle with temptation or with the trials and sorrows of life. May they be comforted by Thy victory. Vouchsafe unto us the firm belief that Thou wilt redeem us from all evil and sorrow, and finally receive us into Thy heavenly kingdom, where unto Thee, the King eternal, shall be glory and praise and honor, world without end. Amen.

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After Scripture Lesson

Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead. Amen. (2 Ti. 2: 8)

Reckon ye also yourselves to be dead unto sin, but alive unto God in Christ Jesus. Amen. (Ro. 6: 11)

Closing Prayers

1. GOD our Father, we bless and praise Thee, that Thou didst raise Thy Son Jesus Christ from the dead, and hast crowned Him with glory and honor at Thy right hand as the living head of His Church. With our whole heart we praise Thy love with which Thou hast loved us in Jesus Christ. For even when we were dead through our trespasses, Thou madest us alive together with Him, and madest us to sit with Him in heavenly places. Thanks and glory be unto Thee, O Lord Jesus; Thou wast dead, and art alive for evermore. To-day we hear Thy voice; Thou sayest, I live, and ye shall live also. Make us partakers of Thy great victory, and of all the glorious fruits of Thy death and resurrection. Grant, that we no longer live in sin unto ourselves, but unto Thee who for us hast died and art risen again.

Have mercy upon all who have not yet felt the power of Thy resurrection, and are still dead in sin. May they hear Thy loving exhortation: Awake, thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall shine upon Thee.

Awaken them through Thy Holy Spirit, that they may leave the dark tomb of sin, and walk before God in the newness of life.

Merciful Saviour, through Thy resurrection Thou hast brought forth life and salvation. Do Thou say unto all tempted and troubled souls, Peace be unto you, that they may be of good cheer, and wait for Thy salvation. According to Thy lovingkindness remember the sick and the dying; refresh their languishing hearts, and comfort them with the Word of life. Teach them to say, I know that my Redeemer liveth. And when we shall walk through the valley of the shadow of death, may Thy resurrection, O Lord, be the assurance of our faith, that there is reserved for us in heaven an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, and that our graves shall verify Thy glorious truth, I am the resurrection and the life.

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and in Him also our Father, Thou God of all peace, as Thou hast brought again from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep, make us perfect in every good thing to do Thy will, working in us that which is well-pleasing in Thy sight through Jesus Christ, Thy beloved Son, to whom with Thee and the Holy Spirit, be praise and glory, world without end. Amen.

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2. LORD Jesus Christ, Thou invincible and almighty Victor over sin, death and hell, we give Thee thanks for Thy glorious resurrection, whereby Thou hast conquered death, and hast brought unto light everlasting life. Thou art the almighty Lord and livest from eternity to eternity. Thou hast saved Thy people from death, and redeemed them from hell. O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?

Thou hast destroyed death, and wipest all tears from our eyes. Our hearts are filled with gladness, and our soul

exultingly blesses Thy Name. Thou truly art the resurrection and the life. Whosoever believeth on Thee shall live, even though he die. Thou art the life of the faithful, hence they shall never die.

O blessed Lord, Thou didst come forth like the beautiful dawn of morn. Now Thou impartest to Thy people Thine everlasting peace, which doth encompass all heavenly bounties: the mercy of God, forgiveness of sins, righteousness, comfort, victory, eternal life and happiness. Oh, may the sweet, comforting, living peace of Christ's resurrection permeate our hearts, and fill our souls with joy.

Help us, dear Lord, to arise unto a new life in true repentance, forsaking the world and its vanity, and subduing all sinful inclination. Comfort us, when in sorrow and distress; and, on the final day, when the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, call forth our body through the power of Thy resurrection, and grant us the awakening unto life everlasting, where every tear shall give way to joy and every sigh be transformed into the praise of God. Amen.

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2. Easter Monday

Opening Sentences

I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth on me, though he die, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth on me shall never die. Amen. (Jn. 11: 25, 26)

To this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Amen. (Ro. 14: 9)

Invocation

LORD GOD, heavenly Father, who hast delivered up Thy Son for our trespasses, and raised Him for our justification; we ask for the gift of Thy Holy Spirit, that He may lead us and guide us and keep us in the true faith, guard us from all sin, and raise us to life eternal; through Thy Son, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer

OUR BLESSED Redeemer and Lord, Jesus Christ, we thank Thee and praise Thee for Thy glorious resurrection, in which all believers find joy and comfort for evermore. For now we know in whom we have believed, and are persuaded that Thou art able to guard all that we may commit unto Thee against that day. Thou didst endure oppression and judgment, and, therefore, the curse of condemnation is taken away from all who through faith in Thee rise unto a new life. Lord Jesus, Thou art the resurrection and the life, do Thou live in us, that in our lives we may praise and bless Thee for Thy love and mercy. Through the power of Thy Holy Spirit awaken us from the sleep of sin, free us from all evil passions and desires of our mortal body, and through repentance and faith help us to walk before Thee in a new life. Conquer and overcome the world in us; Thou mighty One, abide in the midst of Thy faithful according to Thy promise, and give us the peace of Thy life, in which lie hidden all the heavenly blessings: strength, power, victory, peace, joy and life for evermore.

Lord Jesus, Thou art our life, and when Thou shalt be manifested, we also shall be manifested in Thy glory; the corruptible must put on incorruption, and the mortal must put on immortality, and all whom Thou hast raised up through the power of Thy Holy Spirit will break forth and sing for joy, O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting? Thanks be unto God, who giveth us the victory through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

After Scripture Lesson

Like as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life. Amen. (Ro. 6: 4)

I know that my Redeemer liveth. Amen. (Job 19: 25)

Closing Prayer

BLESSED Saviour and Redeemer, who dost establish and comfort the sorrowing, and in whom the weary and oppressed find life, hope and faith; as of old Thou art able to comfort the troubled and heavyhearted with Thy Word of peace. May we not faint in the hour of tribulation, even if our eyes should be holden not to know Thee. With all Thy faithful we ask Thee to abide with us. Open to us the Scriptures through Thy Holy Spirit, cleanse us from all sinful longings and desires, and transform us into the image of Thy glory and holiness. Keep our hearts fervent in love and faith to the end, that we may be living witnesses of Thy resurrection. Amen.

VIII

The Service for Ascension Day

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Opening Sentence

God is gone up with a shout, Jehovah with the sound of a trumpet. Sing praises to God, sing praises: Sing praises unto our King, sing praises. Amen. (Ps. 47: 5, 6)

Invocation

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast raised Thy dear Son from the lowliness of His earthly state to Thy right hand in heaven; grant, that we may joyfully believe and this day celebrate His ascension. Graciously enable us even in this present world to live in heavenly things, seeking only the things which are eternal, that we may in the end be made partakers of the glory of Thy Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Opening Prayer

O LORD Jesus Christ, Son of God, almighty Ruler of heaven and earth, on this anniversary of Thine ascension we rejoice that Thou hast led captivity captive, and didst gain the victory over the powers of Satan and hell. Thou art the King of kings and the Lord of lords, and unto Thee is given a Name which is above every name in heaven and on earth. All things are made subject unto Thee, and Thou art the eternal Head of Thy Church for ever and ever.

We praise Thy holy Name and thank Thee for Thy coming into the flesh. We bless Thee for Thy holy life, for Thy blessed teachings, for Thy bitter sufferings and death, for Thy victorious resurrection and Thy glorious ascension. We thank Thee that thou hast given us the comforting promise: Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. We look up to Thee as our Fore-runner and Advocate with the Father, and pray that we may be acceptable

in His sight. Grant, O Lord, that Thy precious blood, Thy bitter sufferings and death may be to us the power unto salvation. Send us the Holy Spirit that He may lead, comfort and establish us in the one true faith.

And since Thou, O Christ, dost reign for evermore as the eternal King, we pray Thee to graciously remember all Thy people whom Thou hast called out of darkness into Thy marvelous light. Abide with us unto the end of the world, according to Thy promise, and graciously continue the blessed ministrations of Thy Word and holy Sacraments. Cleanse Thy Church from error and false doctrine, and prosper Thy kingdom upon earth according to Thy great power. Continue to send forth faithful laborers into the fields that are ripe for the harvest. Endue all Thy ministers and servants with power from on high and abundantly bless their labors, to the end that sinners may be converted unto Thee and many souls be gathered into Thine everlasting kingdom. And to Thee, O Christ, who art the Captain of our salvation, shall be the glory, and honor, and power, now and for ever. Amen.

After Scripture Lesson

Seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated on the right hand of God. Amen. (Col. 3: 1)

Our citizenship is in heaven; whence also we wait for a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. (Ph. 3: 20)

Closing Prayer

GRACIOUS GOD, our Father in heaven, we praise Thee for Thine infinite love, whereby Thou didst give Thine only begotten Son as an all-atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world. We rejoice that Thou didst triumphantly raise Him from the dead the third day, and hast exalted Him to supreme power and majesty at Thy right hand. Prepare us more and more through the Holy Spirit, that we may fittingly praise Him who has become our exalted Prophet, Priest and King.

O Lord Jesus, Thou eternal High Priest, who didst enter into the holy of holies of heaven to become our divine Intercessor, we pray Thee to be our Advocate with the Father in heaven. Thou King of glory, establish Thy kingdom in our hearts, and give us readiness at all times to serve Thee in deed and truth. Make us willing to submit to Thy holy will and divine direction; make us strong to overcome temptation and sin; and create in our hearts an ever increasing desire to live to Thine honor and glory. Continue Thy good and gracious work in us all the days of our life that we may grow in Thy grace and knowledge.

We pray Thee, O Lord, to bestow Thy benediction upon our country and its people. Protect and establish Thy Church at every place. Fill Thy servants with power from on high, that they may proclaim aright Thy Word of truth. Govern the hearts of parents and teachers, that they may lead their children into the way of truth and holy living. Arouse the conscience of the unsaved and indifferent; direct their attentions heavenward that they may forsake their sinful ways, and seek those things which are above. Lord Jesus, Thou Son of God, who hast Thyself endured shame and suffering, give us strength to bear the cross which by divine providence has been selected for us. Fill our hearts with courage, that we may fight the good fight of faith and lay hold on eternal life, to which we are called. Refresh with Thy heavenly comfort the sick and afflicted, the sad and disheartened, and give ear to the prayers that ascend to Thy throne. And when, at last, our eyes close in death, permit us to see with the eyes of faith the heavens opened, and to hear from Thy lips the glad welcome: Come ye blessed, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. In Thy Name, blessed Saviour and Redeemer, we ask it all. Amen.

IX

The Pentecost Season

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Opening Sentence

Sing unto the Lord, bless His Name; for He saith: I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep mine ordinances, and do them. Amen.

(Ps. 96: 2. Ezek. 36: 27)

Invocation

O GOD, who on the day of Pentecost didst teach the hearts of Thy faithful people by sending to them the light of Thy Holy Spirit; grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things, and evermore to rejoice in His holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who with Thee and the Holy Spirit reigneth one God, world without end. Amen.

Opening Prayer

ALMIGHTY GOD, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Glory, praise, and honor be unto Thee for the revelation of Thyself in Thy Son, our Lord and Saviour. Especially do we thank Thee this day, that Thou didst visit Thy disciples and apostles in the early Church with the glorious outpouring of Thy Holy Spirit, in commemoration of which event we are assembled to-day. We praise Thee that Thou hast promised the Comforter to Thy people everywhere, and that by the operation of Thy Holy Spirit in the hearts of men, Thou dost still gather them into the kingdom of Christ. We thank Thee that Thou art ever willing to send the Holy Spirit into our lives, that He may enlighten, sanctify, and heal our souls, and so to rule them that we may know, honor, and worship Thee as the only true God in heaven and on earth.

O Thou blessed Spirit of light and truth, descend upon us with Thine enlightening power and dispel all darkness from our hearts. Spirit of prayer, help us to pray as we

ought, that we may be acceptable to our God. Spirit of power, be Thou our strength in temptation, and work in us both to will and to do according to Thy pleasure. Spirit of holiness, sanctify us in body, mind and soul, that we may ever be ready to do Thy will. O Thou great Comforter, be our portion and our guide that we may truly follow Him who said: I am the light of the world; I am the way, the truth and the life; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Dear Father in heaven, send Thy heavenly benedictions upon us to-day, as we commemorate the outpouring of Thy Spirit on that first great day of Pentecost. May we feel anew the enlightening power of that Spirit which is able to guide us into all truth. Let not Thy Holy Spirit depart from us, but fill our hearts with Thy grace, that this entire service may have the unction of the Holy One. Purify our lives by Thy cleansing power, forgive us our sins and shortcomings, and accept us through Him who is our Saviour and Redeemer. To Thee, the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, shall be praise, honor, and glory, world without end. Amen.

After Scripture Lesson

Teach me to do Thy will; for Thou art my God: Thy Spirit is good; lead me in the land of uprightness. Amen.
(Ps. 143: 10)

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith to the churches. Amen. (Rev. 2: 7)

Closing Prayer

OUR HEAVENLY Father, we thank Thee that Thou hast established Thy Church, and hast preserved her in the true faith to this day. We, Thy people, acknowledge Thy guidance and protection in all her affairs during the past decades and centuries of her history. By the power of Thy Holy Spirit Thou dost anoint Thy servants to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all nations. Thus are we here to witness the marvelous power of Thy Spirit,

which is able to transform sinful lives. As Thy Spirit controls the hearts of men, they need no more fulfill the lusts of the flesh, but can serve Thee in obedience and devotion with a life that is well-pleasing in Thy sight. For this we give Thee glory and honor.

Our Father, we confess unto Thee our weaknesses and shortcomings. We keenly feel the need of Thy Holy Spirit. Our lives would be woefully inefficient, unless we could depend upon Thy help and blessing. Without Thee we can do nothing. And as our bodies are the living temples for the indwelling of Thy Holy Spirit, we pray Thee to pour out anew Thy Spirit upon us, so that in thought, word and deed we may henceforth be more fully consecrated unto Thee, and that Thy Spirit may bear witness with our spirit that we are the children of God.

We pray Thee, O Father, to govern with Thy Spirit the hearts of all those who are in authority, that they may be instrumental in establishing the kingdom of truth and righteousness. Graciously lead by Thy Spirit all who are engaged in the training of the young, that being so led, they also may lead others in the way of holy living. Bless our land and its people, and may it become more and more a nation in which Thou dost delight. Grant unto the sad, the sorrowing and afflicted the comfort of Thy Spirit's presence, that they may be glad to serve Thee all the days of their lives. May Thy Holy Spirit be unto us all a wall of defence in temptation, a beaconlight in the hour of danger, an unerring guide into all truth in times of doubt, and an anchor of hope in moments of despair. Thou, O gracious God, knowest our needs, and Thou alone canst supply the full measure of Thy Spirit according to our needs. Help us, we beseech Thee, to increase in all things that make for true manhood and womanhood in Christ Jesus. Keep us in the true faith, and, finally, permit us to receive the end of our faith, even the salvation of our souls, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

X

The Trinity Season

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1. The Festival of the Trinity

Opening Sentences

Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of His glory. Amen. (Is. 6: 3)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Invocation

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who hast vouchsafed to Thy Church to know and to confess Thee, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and to worship Thee as the only God in Thy mysterious majesty, we beseech Thee, grant that through this holy faith we may be united in living communion with Thee to our soul's salvation. Unto Thee, the Triune God, be adoration, praise and glory for ever and ever, world without end. Amen.

Opening Prayer

PRAISE and thanksgiving be unto Thee, holy God, that Thou hast revealed Thyself to us in the fulness of Thy grace. Thou, eternal Father and Author of all things, didst create man in Thine image. Thou, only begotten Son of the Father, wast born man for our salvation and didst sacrifice Thyself on the cross for our sins. And Thou, Spirit of the Father and the Son, hast called us through the Gospel, awakened in us a saving faith, and gathered us to be a holy, Christian Church. Holy, Triune God, Thou didst assure us through holy Baptism, that Thou wouldst eternally be our faithful and gracious God. Help us ever

to remember our baptismal covenant and to keep the same with a good conscience. Preserve in us the true knowledge of Thy most holy Name, and keep us in the true faith until our end, and perfect us in Thine eternal kingdom.

We bless Thee, we worship Thee, we praise Thee, we give thanks unto Thee, Thou ever glorious and almighty God.

Lord God, heavenly King and almighty Father; Lord God, Jesus Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world; Lord God, Holy Spirit, our Comforter and Guide, have mercy upon us and hear our prayers. Amen.

After Scripture Lesson

Unto the Triune God be adoration, praise and glory, throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Worthy art Thou, our Lord and our God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power: for Thou didst create all things, and because of Thy will they were, and were created. Amen.

(Rev. 4: 11)

Closing Prayer

O GOD, who dwellest in the light unapproachable, we render to Thee most hearty thanks, and praise Thy holy Name, that Thou hast revealed Thyself to us as Father, Son, and Spirit.

God, our Father, we magnify Thee, that through Thine almighty power Thou didst create heaven and earth, and dost wisely rule over all; that Thou also art our merciful Father, who providest for all His children according to their needs. Let us never forget, that even as Thine omnipotence protects and preserves us, and Thy wisdom graciously rules us, so Thy lovingkindness leads us heavenward whither Thou hast called us.

Praise and honor be unto Thee, Lord Jesus, Thou Son of God, that in Thine unspeakable love Thou didst take upon Thyself our nature to deliver us from sin and from

death. Thou didst come into the world the true light, that lighteth every man, and hast given all that believe in Thee the power to become children of God. With Thy redeemed in heaven and on earth, whom Thou didst purchase with Thy blood, we render thanks unto Thee and bless Thy holy Name.

Oh, grant, that we may put our full trust in Thy Word, and that by the power of Thy divine redemption we may be made more and more like unto Thee. Grant that we may so live, that when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom, with Thy great power and majesty, we may be found worthy to be made partakers of Thy glory.

Praise and adoration be unto Thee, Thou Spirit of God, the Spirit of truth and enlightenment. We glorify Thee, that Thou art strength in our weakness, a comforter and helper in all of life's troubles, and the earnest of our heavenly inheritance. O may Thy mighty work not be in vain in us. Cleanse and sanctify us the more and more, and ever bear witness with our spirit, that we are children of God.

Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, mercifully accept our prayers and songs of praise. Keep us in true faith, until finally we shall see Thee face to face, and praise Thee with all the saints and angels of heaven in glory everlasting. Amen.

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2. Prayers for the Sundays after Trinity

1. GLORY be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, from this time forth and for evermore. While we are in the flesh we cannot, O God, know the mystery of Thy being. But we have come to know Thee as our Father, as our Saviour, and our faithful Guide. As such Thou art not a mystery to us, but a reality.

We thank Thee, O Lord, that Thou hast revealed Thyself to us in Thy Word and in our hearts. We see Thee clearly with the eye of faith. We can come very near to Thee in prayer.

Help us to proclaim our faith in Thee to the world. Help us to glorify Thee not only with our lips, but also with our lives. May we evermore seek Thy throne of grace that we may receive mercy. Cleanse us from all sins, and grant us the strength of Thy Spirit in the accomplishment of our daily tasks, conscious that we have come close to Thee. Help us so to remain, even among the trials and temptations of our daily pilgrimage. Hear our prayer, O Lord, and let our cry come unto Thee, for the sake of Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

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2. OUR heavenly Father, we have gathered in Thy house for worship and praise. We glorify and magnify Thy holy Name. To Thee we owe all that we are, and all that we have. We thank Thee for our salvation through Christ Jesus, for the revelation of Thyself in Thy Word, and for all means of grace which Thou hast provided for us.

We are but sinful men and do not deserve any of these precious gifts. Forgive us all our sins and help us to walk by faith, and to trust in Thee.

Help us, heavenly Father, to show to each other that love which the Saviour has taught us. Make us useful servants in Thy vineyard. Even as Jesus said, I must be about my Father's business, so help us to banish all selfish thoughts, and in the spirit of loving service live for our brethren, and thus help make the world better.

And now, as we would hear Thy Word, enlighten us that we may understand Thy will, and give us grace and power to live according to Thy precepts.

Bless Thy children everywhere, reveal Thyself to those who know Thee not. Bless the work of Thy Church on earth. Especially for our Evangelical Church do we ask wisdom and strength. Grant that we and all others to whom Thou hast revealed Thyself may see our duty clearly. May we find happiness and peace in serving Thee with a whole heart, and finally save us through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. In His Name we ask it. Amen.

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3. OUR heavenly Father, we thank Thee that Thou hast permitted us to gather in Thy house on this Thy day of rest. We would rest not only from our daily labors, but also seek rest for our souls. Thou hast placed us here in this world among many trials and temptations. They beset us on every hand, but we know that in the fight against them we are not alone. Behold, He that keepeth Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. O Lord, may we ever realize that Thou art watching over us, that Thou art anxious about each one, and that Thy guiding hand is ever leading us.

And now we would seek Thee in Thy Word. Open our hearts and minds that we may see Thee clearly, and let Thy Holy Spirit cleanse our hearts from sinful thoughts, that we may depart from Thy house with greater courage and larger faith.

Bless our entire congregation, bless Thy Church on earth, and may we feel to-day, more than ever before, that we are always in Thy keeping. Bless our going out and our coming in, from this time forth and for evermore. In Jesus' Name we ask it. Amen.

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4. HEAVENLY Father, we come before Thy throne with faith and confidence. Although we are sinful, Thou hast encouraged us through Thy Word to seek Thy face.

We come before Thee, realizing that we are not worthy to seek Thy divine presence. Forgive us all our sins, heavenly Father, through the grace of Thy dear Son. Cleanse us from all iniquity. Help us to feel the burden of our sins and our need of forgiveness. Our eyes look unto Thee, O Lord our God, until Thou shalt have mercy upon us, Thy children.

Make us truly humble, for then we shall seek Thy help and strength. We have come to renew our covenant with Thee this day. May we never forget that we have promised Thee to be faithful unto death.

While our life flows on, and we know not when it shall end, may we with the eye of faith ever see Thy guiding and protecting hand. And, when our lifework is ended, when we have fought the good fight, when we have kept the faith, receive us through Thy mercy into the place which our Saviour has prepared for us and for all who love Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

5. MERCIFUL and ever present God, our God and Father through Jesus Christ our Lord. As our Saviour, in the days of His flesh after toil and labor, sought rest and strength in prayer and quiet upon the mountain, so do we now stand upon Thy holy hill to be calmed and comforted. We approach Thee this day as Thy children who love Thee

and Thy Word, because we have learned the power of Thy mercy and truth. We carry our burdens of life and home and business to Thee, praying Thee to make us strong to bear them. We draw nigh with our difficulties, our problems, and our failures in order that Thou wouldst forgive our shortcomings and make us proficient in our individual tasks. Mercifully bless us in our private devotions; be the unseen, yet ever present Guest in our family circle, and enable us to fulfill our obligations toward God and man.

Almighty God and glorious Lord! We, who are but pilgrims and strangers in this passing world, pray Thee to clothe us with righteousness, to give us the staff of faith and to vouchsafe an abiding sense of the reality and glory of things unseen in the heavenly city, which Thou hast prepared for them that love Thee. Raise us above the vanity of this present world with its fleeting pleasures and its temporal trials. Help us to show forth Thy glory before the world by our good works of faith and service, and grant that under Thy guidance all things shall work together for our everlasting salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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6. HEAVENLY Father, we desire to come into Thy blessed presence on this holy Sabbath day, adoring Thee as God over all, and rejoicing that we are privileged to call Thee Father. We thank Thee for Thy faithfulness and love, for Thy pardoning grace in Christ our Saviour. Make us conscious of a filial nearness to Thee, our Father in heaven. Permit us to hear and experience throughout this day the Saviour's gracious words of benediction, Peace be unto thee. Fill us, we pray Thee, with the Spirit of Christ that we may be enabled to do the things He teaches us. Grant us the vision of the merciful Saviour who was without sin, and cause us to be charitable toward the faults of others. Teach us to be humble, patient, gentle and for-

giving. Increase our faith, enlarge our hopes, and help us to live the life of love, daily following after Thee. Enable us to serve Thee with energy and fervor all the days of our life.

Bless now, we beseech Thee, the services of this day. May weak souls be strengthened; may sorrowing ones be comforted; may the weary and heavy laden find rest. Grant that the spirit of this holy Sabbath day may follow us throughout the week. Control and direct our lives, and when Thy will concerning us on earth is completed, take us to dwell with Thyself in glory everlasting. We humbly ask these blessings in our Redeemer's Name and for His sake. Amen.

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7. ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, we bless Thee for the return of this Sabbath day. May it prove a holy day of rest to each of us, a rest from sin and a rest in Thee, O God. May all vain and worldly thoughts be set aside, that we may be enabled to worship Thee in the beauty of holiness. We come anew to Thee in the Name of Thy dear Son, deeply lamenting our many sins and pleading Thy forgiveness. Thou, O God, art merciful and everloving, and we thank Thee that Thou dost ever remember the needs of Thy children. May our faith be that trust in Thee which never fears nor doubts, which knows no murmurings, but is filled with perfect assurance. May we know that Thou canst provide for us, even if we can see no source of supply. Grant, that we may be daily nourished of Thee, growing in divine strength and character. Thou alone canst appease the hunger of our soul. Without Thee we must perish, for Thou alone art the bread of life. Graciously help us to recognize the world's great need and want, realizing that all gifts of life are from Thee, and that they impose upon us the responsibility of benevolence.

Bless now, heavenly Father, all the services of this day. May multitudes of such as shall be saved be added to the Church. Strengthen Thy ministering servants. May self be hidden, and Thy love and pardoning grace in Christ exalted. Lead us day by day nearer to Thee, and finally bring us to Thine everlasting kingdom through the merits of Thy dear Son, our only Lord and Saviour. Amen.

✠

8. ALMIGHTY God and gracious heavenly Father, whose nature and name is Love, we thank Thee on this Sabbath day for all the tokens of Thy love we have been permitted to enjoy. We desire anew to praise Thee for the great gift of Thy love, Jesus our Saviour. In His Name we seek Thy throne of mercy and plead for pardon and life. For His sake make us Thine own and sanctify us wholly in body, soul and spirit.

Take from us every touch of hypocrisy, and enable us to live Thy truth. May we never be listless hearers, but willing doers. May we receive Thy Word and gladly respond. Help us to meet the pressing problems of poverty with wise sympathy and help. Enable us to do Thy will day by day, and show by Christian activity that we love Thee.

Bless abundantly to-day the preaching of Thy holy Word. May Thy ministering servants be strong to do Thy will, that conviction may come to many hearts. Vouchsafe Thy strength and consolation to every needy soul. Save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance; be their Shepherd also, and bear them up for ever. We ask it in Jesus' Name. Amen.

✠

9. MOST gracious God, who hast again permitted us to assemble in this sanctuary, bless, we beseech Thee, this holy Sabbath day. May the Sun of righteousness arise upon us with healing in His wings. Vouchsafe anew unto us through Jesus, our Saviour, Thy forgiving grace, and enable us to rise by faith, and walk with our Lord in the newness of life.

Blessed Saviour, teach us to be faithful. Endue us with a true sense of our high stewardship. Purify us in our motives. Help us to work and live unto Thee. As we bow before Thee, may we gain the spirit of Thy life and learn the lesson of Thy faithful love. Subdue in us whatever is inconsistent with Thy will. Put a sanctified restraint on our thoughts, and enable us to make our lives living sacrifices.

We pray for the poor, the afflicted, the oppressed, the bereaved, the dying. O Thou who canst richly comfort and graciously relieve, heal their sorrows and bind up their wounds.

Prepare us all, heavenly Father, for the appearing of our Lord and Master. Give us grace to feel that our time is short and that the hour of reckoning may be nigh. And when our work on earth is done and we have been faithful to the trust, receive us into the everlasting habitations for the sake of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

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10. OUR Father in heaven, Thou art glorious in holiness and faithful in lovingkindness. Blessed be Thy holy Name for all Thy benefits towards us. Praise be unto Thee for the return of this day, the day of the Son of man. Fill our hearts with Thy love, and pour out upon us a double portion of Thy Spirit. Permit us to receive this day a quickening apprehension of Thy great and pardoning love

in Christ our Saviour. May our souls be cleansed by the blood of Jesus, our faith invigorated and our love deepened.

Gracious Saviour, we welcome Thee. Make our heart Thy temple. We realize with sorrow that there is much therein which is displeasing unto Thee. Drive out the sin that would ensnare us and separate us from Thee; cleanse it from all unrighteousness, from secret sins, from pride and all selfishness. Erect Thine own altar in our heart, where the flames of a pure and holy love may unceasingly burn.

Heavenly Father, bless our Evangelical Church of which we are a part; bless Thy holy Church universal. Remember in mercy those who are still sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death. Do Thou follow with Thine enriching blessing all the sacred services of Thy sanctuary. Sanctify us wholly in body, soul and spirit, and when time shall be no more, may we meet in the unchanging light of Thy presence through Jesus, our blessed Lord and Saviour.

Amen.

XI

The Festival of Harvest Home

✠

Opening Sentences

Praise ye the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good; for His lovingkindness endureth forever. Amen. (Ps. 106: 1)

It is a good thing to give thanks unto Jehovah, and to sing praises unto Thy Name, O Most High. Amen. (Ps. 92: 1)

It is of Jehovah's lovingkindness that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. Amen. (La. 3: 22)

Invocation

ALMIGHTY GOD, most merciful Father, who openest Thy hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing; we give Thee most humble and hearty thanks that Thou hast crowned the fields with Thy blessing, and hast permitted us once more to gather in the fruits of the earth. We beseech Thee to bless and protect the living seed of Thy Word sown in our hearts, that in the plenteous fruits of righteousness we may always present to Thee an acceptable thank-offering; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who reigneth with Thee and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

Opening Prayer

ALMIGHTY GOD, Father of all mercies, by whose hands all living things are made, and by whose blessings they are nourished and sustained; we give Thee praise and hearty thanks, because Thou hast been merciful unto us. Praise waiteth for Thee in Zion, for Thou art abundant in grace and truth. In Thy merciful providence Thou hast again blessed our fields and bestowed upon us a plentiful

harvest of the fruits of the earth. Thou hast not withheld the sunshine and the rain, and hast graciously protected the fields from destructive storms and tempests. Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, and His mercy endureth for ever.

Merciful Father, we acknowledge and confess before Thee that we are not worthy of the least of these Thy benefits, and that by reason of our disobedience and ingratitude we have justly deserved Thine anger. Have mercy upon us, O God, according to Thy lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity and cleanse us from our sin. Grant us fullness of life, that we may bring forth fruits worthy of repentance. Help us to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto Thee.

Continue to visit us with Thy blessings, heavenly Father. May there be no time of unfruitfulness in our life, but continual harvests of blessing even in seasons of disappointment and adversity. Make our minds fertile to ever realize the best ways of serving Thee with our whole heart. And to every year that Thou shalt add to our lives, add also, we implore Thee, more faithfulness to our obedience; more fervency to our love; more strength to our faith; more patience to bear the cross, and more willingness to serve Thee by serving our fellow-men.

Bless us, O heavenly Father, in all the labor and joy of the harvest-field. May we be diligent for the King. And on the last day, when Thou shalt send out Thine angels as reapers to separate the tares from the wheat, may we be gathered into Thy Kingdom as ripened sheaves of Thy mercy. We humbly ask it for Christ's sake.

Amen.

Scripture Lesson

Psalm 104 or 145.

After Scripture Lesson

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy Name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits. Amen. (Ps. 103: 1, 2)

Whoso offereth the sacrifice of thanksgiving glorifieth me; and to him that ordereth his way aright will I show the salvation of God. Amen. (Ps. 50: 23)

Closing Prayer

O GOD, our heavenly Father, we adore Thee and bless Thy holy Name. Thou art worthy to receive blessing and honor and glory and power, for Thou hast created and dost preserve all things. The eyes of all wait for Thee; and Thou givest them their food in due season. Thou openest Thy hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing. Thou hast granted us life and favor, and Thy visitation hath preserved our spirit. We give Thee thanks for all the blessings we have received; for all the success we have attained; for having been able to overcome manifold bodily infirmities, dangers and temptations. So direct us that we may render an acceptable thanksgiving unto Thee.

And now we praise Thee with grateful hearts, that Thou hast again nourished and strengthened us through Thy holy Word. Oh, grant, that we may receive with meekness the implanted Word which is able to save our souls. Forbid that we should be way-side hearers; nor let our hearts be like the stony ground, or choked with thorns, but help us to be like unto the good ground into which the golden seed of Thy Word doth fall, and cometh forth again bringing fruit for time and eternity.

Direct our eyes to the great Harvest Festival at the end of the world. Help us to realize that the heavenly reaping shall be in proportion to the earthly sowing. He that soweth sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he that soweth bountifully shall also reap bountifully. Let this promise be an incentive to holy living, and to do good

to all men, as we have opportunity. May this vision of the future harvest make us resigned in trials; patient amid the cares and worries of life; willing to provide for the poor and the sick, and to guide the feeble and the erring ones into paths of righteousness. And when the reaping time comes, and the Lord of the harvest appears to gather the righteous into eternal glory, O Father, grant, that we, too, may be among the number of those who love His appearing. These and all other blessings for us, for the Church, and for the world, we humbly ask in the Name of Jesus, to whom, with Thee, and the Holy Spirit, be eternal praise. Amen.

XII

The Festival of the Reformation

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1. The Service for Reformation Sunday

Opening Sentences

Jehovah of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Therefore will we not fear, though the earth do change, and though the mountains be shaken into the heart of the seas. Amen. (Ps. 46: 7, 2)

Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Jehovah loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God. Amen. (Lk. 12: 32; Ps. 87: 2, 3)

Invocation

O LORD GOD, heavenly Father, pour out, we beseech Thee, Thy Holy Spirit upon Thy faithful people. Keep them steadfast in Thy grace and truth. Protect and comfort them in all temptation. Defend them against all enemies of Thy Word, and bestow upon Christ's Church militant Thy saving peace; through Thy Son, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

Opening Prayers

1. ALMIGHTY and merciful God, who art our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble; we come before Thee with praise and thanksgiving on this anniversary day of the Reformation. Thou hast done great things for us, whereof we are glad. Thou hast mercifully delivered the Church from the power of darkness, and opened to her the Word of light and life. Thou hast mightily broken asunder the chains of her bondage, and led her into the blessed liberty of the sons of God through the

agency of Thy servants. And amid all the vehement attacks of the kingdom of darkness, Thou hast graciously been to her sun and shield, crowning her efforts with victory. Praise be to Thy holy Name for all these mercies. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits!

O heavenly Father, preserve unto us evermore these blessings, and mercifully forgive us all our sins. Cleanse us, O Lord, and accept us for Jesus' sake. Grant, that Thy holy Word may continue among us in purity and power, and that at all times the holy Sacraments may be rightly administered. Give unto Thy Church throughout all time faithful and loyal servants, and uphold and strengthen them with help from Thy sanctuary. Make them wise to win souls. Endue their words with heavenly power, so that Thy Name may be glorified in all the earth.

Increase, O God, the faith and zeal of all Thy people. Let Thy Spirit rule our hearts in love and righteousness. Endue us with a true sense of our duty as followers of Christ, and make us ready and consecrated for large and fruitful work.

Enlighten and bring back to Thy fold all who have erred from the path of truth, that there may be rejoicing on earth and in heaven. Turn the hearts of all who hate Thy Word and Thy Church, and forgive them, for they know not what they do.

Almighty God, restrain everywhere on earth the kingdom of darkness, and let the light of Thy holiness and love shine in all the world. Visit with Thy saving power all who suffer tribulation, oppression and persecution for Thy Name's sake. Deliver them, that Thy Name may be glorified among all nations.

O Thou, who hast promised to dwell in Thy Church for ever, grant, we beseech Thee, that through the work of the Holy Spirit all Christians may be united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and love, and make us a

Church acceptable unto Thee. Increase Thy Church more and more, and hasten the promised day, when at the Name of Jesus every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that He is Lord, to the glory of the Father.

Hear us, O Triune God, in these our prayers, and do unto us exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think. And to Thee, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, will we ascribe honor and glory in the Church unto all generations for ever and ever. Amen.

✠

2. ETERNAL GOD and heavenly Father, God of infinite power and love, we rejoice with Thy people in being privileged to celebrate this day which commemorates Thy lovingkindness toward us and all men. We praise Thy holy Name for Thy love which followed us when rebellious and sin-smitten we separated ourselves from Thee. In Thy great mercy Thou didst purge the Church of her errors. Thou didst raise up faithful servants and inspire them to fearlessly assail the corruptions which had crept into Thy Sanctuary. Thou didst bring anew to Thy people the means of grace: the Bible and the holy Sacraments; above all, an open way to Thee through the blood of our only Mediator and Saviour, Christ Jesus, our Lord. Thou, O God, hast done wonderful things; Thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth. Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy Name be the honor and glory. Trust, O my soul, in the Lord for ever, for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength.

With these mercies, O Triune God, vouchsafe unto us a heart to love Thee and to show forth Thy praise not only with our lips, but also with our lives. Continue to enlighten, sanctify and bless us through Thy holy Word and Sacraments. Preserve Thy Church from doubt and impatience, from discouragement and discord. Revive the spirit of

the Reformation in Thy Church, that there may be a larger outpouring of prayer and gifts and personal service. Endow Thy servants with wisdom, that the world-wide triumph of Thy kingdom may be advanced. Take away all hatred and prejudice. Inspire us with mutual love and forbearance. Defend us from all schisms, and unite us in the bonds of a common faith and love. Fill our souls with a vision of Thy beauty and power, that we may be strengthened to forsake all and follow Thee. O Thou great Shepherd of Israel, who by Thine outstretched arm didst bring Thy people out of bondage, guide us, we beseech Thee, safely through the trials and temptations of this world; feed us with the bread from heaven; uphold and protect us amid all dangers, and finally bring us into that rest which remaineth for the children of God. And unto Thee, who is able to guard us from stumbling, and to set us before the presence of Thy glory without blemish in exceeding joy, to the only God, our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and power, before all time, and now, and for evermore. Amen.

Scripture Lesson

Psalm 46, 48 or 84.

After Scripture Lesson

If ye abide in my Word, then are ye truly my disciples: and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. Amen. (Jn. 8: 31, 32)

And we have the Word of prophecy made more sure; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day-star arise in your hearts. Amen. (2 P. 1: 19)

Closing Prayer

ALMIGHTY GOD, our heavenly Father, who art light, and through whom light cometh into the world, we thank Thee that through the Reformation the Sun of righteousness has risen upon us anew, and many souls are rejoicing and walking in the light. Enlighten, we beseech

Thee, the eyes of our understanding, that we may have a true conception of Thee and the work that Thou wouldst have us do. Help us to be the light of the world, and to shine forth the praise of Him who ransomed us by His blood, and who ever liveth to make intercession for us. Grant now to set Thy blessed seal upon the message that has come to us. May all the truths heard be translated into living forms of service. Give unto us a sincere willingness to be made holy; to be loosed from the power of sin; to take upon us the yoke of the Christ, and to accept with willing hearts the self-sacrifice of the spiritual life and the duties that fall to us as His followers.

O Triune God, help us to dwell in safety under the shadow of Thy wings. May the light of Thy Spirit keep us from darkness and sin. Be Thou our strong deliverer. Save us from prejudice and superstition; from mental and moral bias and misconception. Graciously lead us out of all narrowness into the larger vision of Thy truth and into sympathetic and helpful touch with mankind. Take away whatsoever may hinder us from godly union and concord. Grant, that we be united in the unity of the spirit and the bond of peace.

Speed Thou, we pray, the coming of Thy kingdom. May the beauty of holiness come over our land, and may there be righteousness, peace and contentment within our borders.

Bless all who serve Thee in Thy Church. Strengthen them in their labors, and give them courage to witness a good confession before Thee and the world.

Hear us in the prayers we have spoken, and in the larger and deeper prayers for which there is no speech nor language. And unto Thee, the God of all grace, who hath called us unto eternal glory through Jesus Christ, be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

2. Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Bible

MOST MERCIFUL God, our heavenly Father, in whom dwelleth all fullness of light and wisdom, we thank Thee for Thy precious gift, the Holy Scriptures, that can make us wise unto salvation. Thy Word, O God, endureth for ever. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but Thy Word shall not pass away. Therefore we thank Thee on this day that this priceless heritage has been given anew to the world through the Reformation. Give us grace, we beseech Thee, to receive Thy holy Word with all reverence, faith and humility. In Thy mercy permit its kindly and heavenly rays to shine upon life's many tasks. Let it continue with us throughout life's changing affairs. May it shine in seasons of gladness and seasons of grief, glorifying our joy and pain to Thine honor and our salvation. Let Thy Word be as the fire to burn away the dross of our lives; the hammer to smite hardened hearts; the star of hope in the night of affliction; the staff for the upward and narrow way; the weapon for our defense; the compass on life's vast and changing sea.

Merciful Father, graciously forgive us all sins against Thy Word. Save us from all irreverence which is the blight of our life. Deliver us from all frivolity which would waste our treasure and impair our spiritual heritage. Take every doubt out of our minds. May the power of Thy Word energize our faith and hope and love. May Thy promises be as bread unto our souls, and make us mighty in obedience and service. Grant, that all our powers be rooted in Thee, and every action spring from Thy holy Word.

Vouchsafe, heavenly Father, unto all Thy servants the gift of the Holy Spirit, that they may handle aright the Word of truth, and preach it to the upbuilding of Thy people in holiness and greater faithfulness.

Remember in Thy mercy, Lord, all who have not yet come to a saving knowledge of Thee, as revealed in Thy holy Word, that they may learn to render to Thee the love and obedience which Thou dost require. Prosper the work of all Thy servants to spread Thy Word among heathen nations. Graciously hasten the time, when Thy kingdom shall come in all its fullness and Thy Word shall be known in all its purity, and shall be to all souls everywhere wisdom and strength, comfort and consolation, transforming human lives from glory to glory, until all shall come unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, our Lord.

Hear us, O merciful Father, in these our supplications for the sake of Thy dear Son Jesus Christ, to whom with Thee and the Holy Spirit be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

XIII

The National Thanksgiving Day

✠

Opening Sentence

Praise ye Jehovah. Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to His excellent greatness. Let everything that hath breath praise Jehovah. Praise ye Jehovah. Amen.

(Ps. 150: 2, 6)

Invocation

ALMIGHTY GOD, our heavenly Father, we thank Thee, that Thou hast so bountifully blessed our country and nation, and dost continue to enrich us with the gifts of Thy merciful goodness. Give us, we beseech Thee, Thy Holy Spirit, that we may penitently, humbly and gratefully acknowledge Thy lovingkindness. Not unto us, O Jehovah, not unto us, but unto Thy Name give glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Opening Prayer

O GOD, our heavenly Father, Giver of every good and perfect gift, we draw nigh unto Thee on this day of National Thanksgiving, and acknowledge with gratitude the manifold blessings which Thou in love and mercy hast showered upon us. Thou hast crowned the year with Thy goodness. Thou hast opened Thy hand, and hast satisfied the desire of every living thing.

We thank Thee that Thou hast given us Thy Son as a Saviour in whom we have forgiveness of sins and everlasting life. Through Him Thou hast drawn us unto Thyself and blessed us richly in all things.

We adore Thee for the material benefits that we have received. Thou hast given us the sunshine and the rain, and brought forth the harvest from the ground. In mercy

hast Thou blessed the work of our hands, and through Thy loving care our daily bread has not been withheld from us. For all the success that we have attained, for all the blessings of grace and protection that we have experienced, and for all the friendly aid and encouragement that we have received, we give Thee hearty thanks, O God.

We praise Thee that Thy love has been with us even in our trials and afflictions. Thou hast not left us comfortless in our bereavements and misfortunes. In love and mercy didst Thou provide a balm for every sorrow and distress.

Thanks be unto Thee for Thy continued blessings upon this congregation and upon the Church universal. Thou hast given us richly of spiritual gifts, and blessed us with growth and prosperity.

O heavenly Father, we lament our unworthiness, we deplore our shortcomings and transgressions, the hardness of our hearts and the coldness of our affections. If Thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? Have mercy upon us, O God, and forgive all our sins.

We pray that Thou wouldst continue to be with us and bless us. May the showers of blessing come upon our Evangelical Church and upon our entire land. May there be richer harvests of prayers and gifts and consecrated work. Mercifully enable those who are rich to be charitable toward others. Bless the work of our hands, and let not Thy mercy depart from us. Lift upon us, O Lord, the light of Thy countenance and give us peace.

Bless this service, heavenly Father. Help us to worship Thee in the beauty of holiness. Inspire our speech that the words of our mouths and the mediations of our hearts may be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, our Rock, and our Redeemer.

Hear us in these our prayers for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Closing Prayer

ALMIGHTY GOD, our heavenly Father; Thy mercies are without number; and infinite is Thy goodness. Many, O Lord our God, are Thy wonderful works which Thou hast done, and Thy thoughts which are usward; they cannot be reckoned up in order unto Thee; they are more than can be numbered. What shall we render unto Thee, O Lord, for all Thy benefits toward us? Open Thou our lips that our mouths shall show forth Thy praise. Strengthen our hands that our work shall redound to Thine honor and glory.

Look with favor and mercy upon this nation which Thou hast so highly exalted among the nations, and to which Thou hast given such extended dominion and power, and such wide-spread opportunities of usefulness. May "Holiness to the Lord" be inscribed on all our possessions, commerce and wealth, that thus we may be a blessing to every land through Christ Jesus, our all-sufficient Helper and Redeemer.

Let Thy blessing rest upon Thy servant, the President of the United States, and all who are in authority, and enable them to discharge the duties of their stations with wisdom and integrity. Grant unto them the spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord.

Keep us in Thy care. Deliver us from all strife and unrighteousness. Maintain Thy peace by righteous laws. Help everyone of us, from the highest to the lowest, to seek after Thee, O God, that Thou mayest not root us out from being a people, but ever be our God, and do us good in the accustomed ways of Thy lovingkindness.

Bless the Church everywhere, O Lord. We pray for the true progress of Thy Word in all lands. At last fulfill all Thy promises in the universal triumph of the kingdom of Jesus throughout the world.

Guide us in the daily affairs and trials of life. Grant us wisdom and grace to use all Thy gifts to the upbuilding of Thy kingdom, to the relief of the needy, to our own comforts, but in all things to Thine honor and glory.

Cease not Thy work of grace upon us. Graciously continue to give us our daily bread. Keep us from all that would be detrimental to our soul's interests. May we always rejoice in the storehouse of grace in Jesus.

And unto Thy great Name, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we ascribe blessing, and honor, and glory, and praise, now and for ever. Amen.

XIV

The Service for Memorial Sunday

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Opening Sentences

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem. Amen. (Is. 40: 1)

There is the voice of one saying, Cry. And one said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth, because the breath of Jehovah bloweth upon it; surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth; but the Word of our God shall stand for ever. Amen. (Is. 40: 6-8)

Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Behold, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, O my people. And I will put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I will place you in your own land: and ye shall know that I, Jehovah, have spoken it, saith Jehovah. Amen. (Ezek. 37: 12, 14)

Invocation

ALMIGHTY and eternal God, who through Thy Son hast promised unto us forgiveness of sins and deliverance from eternal death; we beseech Thee, strengthen us through Thy Holy Spirit that we may daily more firmly trust in Thine eternal mercy, and cheerfully hope, that we shall not die, but fall asleep, to be raised on the last day unto everlasting life, through Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Opening Prayer

ETERNAL GOD, our heavenly Father, we remember on this solemn occasion our loved ones who have departed this life. Though their death has caused us sorrow, yet we thank Thee, that we have abundant consolation for all our griefs and more and more exceedingly an eternal weight of glory for all our suffering upon the earth. We

praise Thee for the blessed Saviour who has conquered death and glorified the grave, and in whom we have the gift of eternal life. Grant that to-day, as in spirit we stand beside the graves of the departed, we may more fully realize that we have no continuing city here, but seek one to come. Teach us pilgrims and strangers on the earth, to look for the blessed hope, even the glorious appearance of the great God, our Saviour. Enable us, while sojourning here, to accept with willing hearts whatever may be Thy will concerning us: be it health or sickness, joy or sorrow, life or death. God of all consolation, graciously draw near to all afflicted and sorrowing hearts. Silence every murmur by the assurance, that to them who love God all things work together for good. Help all sorrowing ones to look forward to that hour, when their sorrow shall be turned into joy, and all tears shall be wiped from their eyes. Bestow heaven's benediction upon us all, and help us to glorify Thee on earth. We put ourselves at Thy disposal. May Thine everlasting arms be around us for good; guiding us through life, through death, till we are safe in glory through Jesus Christ, our only Saviour. Amen.

Closing Prayer

ALMIGHTY and most merciful God, Thou art our only refuge and strength in time of trouble. Thou art our Father with a father's love and compassion. Help us to put our trust in Thy wise providence that ordains and orders all things to our eternal salvation. Enable us now, we beseech Thee, to attend to the solemn lessons of this occasion. Teach us to number our days that we may get us a heart of wisdom. Help us to be ever mindful of the fact that all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the field: the grass withereth and the flower thereof falleth away, but whosoever abideth in Thee hath eternal life. Graciously grant that our affections may be directed heavenward, and that we may seek those things which are above where Christ sitteth.

Mercifully be nigh unto all sorrowing hearts. Help them to lean with peaceful confidence upon Thy promises. Grant unto all who have lost their beloved ones a blessed reunion in that beautiful homeland of the soul, where no tears shall ever flow and the night of sorrow shall be no more.

Make us strong to do Thy will. Make us free from the fear of death. Unite us more closely with Him who is the Resurrection and the Life. Sanctify us through Thy Holy Spirit. Whether we live, may we live unto the Lord; whether we die, may we die unto the Lord, that whether living or dying we may be the Lord's. And finally open unto us the gates of the eternal Paradise, and vouchsafe unto us the greeting from the Saviour's lips, Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord. We ask it in Jesus' Name and for His sake. Amen.

XV

Mission Services

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1. The Mission Festival

Opening Sentences

Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things; and blessed be His glorious Name for ever; and let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen, and Amen. (Ps. 72: 18, 19)

O sing unto the Lord a new song; for He hath done marvelous things: His right hand, and His holy arm, hath wrought salvation for Him. The Lord hath made known His salvation: His righteousness hath He openly showed in the sight of the nations. He hath remembered His lovingkindness and His faithfulness toward the house of Israel: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Amen. (Ps. 98: 1-3)

O sing unto the Lord a new song: sing unto the Lord, all the earth. Sing unto the Lord, bless His name; show forth His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the people. For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised. Amen. (Ps. 96: 1-4)

Invocation

O LORD, who in Thy mercy dost make possible the preaching of the Word in all tongues, we pray Thee, fulfill Thy promise that Thy Word shall not return unto Thee void. Bless the work of Thy messengers, so that Thy Name may be glorified among the nations, even from the rising of the sun to the going down thereof, and they, together with us, may exalt Thee for ever and ever. Amen.

Opening Prayers

1. MERCIFUL GOD and Father, honor and praise be unto Thee for calling us through Thy Holy Spirit into Thy Kingdom of grace, and for making Thy Son, Jesus

Christ, unto us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption. Help us to recognize such Thy grace and to be ever firmly founded therein by faith. To that end bless the preaching of Thy Word in all Christian congregations and communities, at home and abroad, and pour out Thy Holy Spirit upon those who teach and those who hear.

Heavenly Father! Many millions of the earth are yet far away from Thy kingdom; multitudes of heathen in our country and elsewhere blindly pursue their way, following after the abominations of idolatry. O have mercy on them; grant them the light of the Gospel; open their eyes to see Thee and the miracles of Thy grace; let them find light and salvation in Thy Son Jesus Christ. Send forth Thy messengers into all the world to preach salvation to all the nations. Bless all missionaries and workers in their labors, especially those of our Church in India and in the homeland. Endow them with faith and love, with courage and humility, with wisdom and faithfulness to proclaim the glad tidings with conviction and sincerity, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

To us and Thy Church grant abundant grace, that we may stand ready, every one according to the gift he has received, to labor in faith and love for the extension of Thy kingdom. Revive us anew for such work, and let Thy blessing rest upon this assembly.

Let all who have come and will come to Thy kingdom, from the east and the west, the north and the south, grow unto a holy body, fitly framed together, until finally there shall be one flock under one shepherd, and all tongues shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God, the Father. Amen.

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2. WE GLORIFY and praise Thee, Lord Jesus, Christ, for manifesting Thyself among poor and sinful men. By Thy mighty hand Thou hast prepared a highway

unto the farthest nations. Thou hast seen the waiting of the isles and heard the cry of the needy, which has gone up unto heaven for ages. By Thy merciful dealings the gateways of the nations have been opened, and through Thy Holy Spirit even the hearts of many heathen have been turned, enabling them to leave the abominations of their fathers and to accept salvation in Thee, their Saviour. This is marvelous before our eyes and a proof of the power of Thy Word.

O Lord, we pray Thee, that Thou wouldst continue to visit the lost in all places of the earth. With the might of Thine arm encompass Thy messengers, who often stand among the heathen and the ungodly as sheep in the midst of wolves. Deliver them from the persecutions of their adversaries and from all who seek their lives. Be especially mindful of our missionaries and their co-workers who labor in India, and of those who are at work at home. Grant them health and strength in body and soul; endow them with patience and courage, and by their efforts bring many souls to Christ. Multiply the number of such, who cheerfully engage in Thy service as missionaries. Hasten, O Lord, to accomplish the plans of Thy kingdom throughout the world and satisfy the earnest expectations of the creation. Lord, we wait for Thy salvation which Thou hast promised unto all the world, that Thy dominion may be established, and every mouth be full of Thy praise. For Thou art worthy to receive honor and praise and worship for ever and ever. Amen.

Scripture Lessons

(General) Psalms 96, 97, 115. Isaiah 2: 1-5; 9: 1-7; 42: 1-13; 44: 9-20; 51: 1-9; 53; 60. Ezekiel 37: 1-10; 47: 1-12. Matthew 28: 16-20. Acts 1: 1-11; 10; 13: 1-13. Ephesians 2; 3. Revelation 11: 15-19; 21: 21-27.

(Jews) Isaiah 1: 18-27; 6; 11: 11-12; 30: 15-26; 41: 8-20. Jeremiah 31: 27-37. Ezekiel 36; 37: 1-10; 39: 21-29. Hosea 11: 1-10; 14. Joel 3: 16-21. Amos 9: 11-15. Romans 11.

After Scripture Lesson

The harvest indeed is plenteous, but the laborers are few. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He send forth laborers into His harvest. Amen. (Mt. 9: 37, 38)

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace, that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation, that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! Amen. (Is. 52: 7)

Closing Prayer

ETERNAL GOD, our Father in Christ Jesus our Saviour! We thank Thee that Thou didst call us together to consider the holy cause of Thy kingdom. We praise Thee for the progress of the World's evangelization, for the messages that tell us how heathen people repent and walk in the newness of life through the knowledge of Thy Gospel. We thank Thee for the increasing number of Thy messengers and for the effectiveness of their testimony. And we pray Thee, heavenly Lord and King, vouchsafe to continue Thy presence and blessing in Thy work.

Remember especially our Mission in India, and the Missions in our own country, and prosper the same in all things. From our midst awaken hearts filled with fervent and holy zeal for Thy cause. Cleanse our hearts that, free from vainglory, we also may seek to lead the souls of the heathen and all ungodly to Thee, their Saviour, and break unto them the bread of life.

O Thou faithful Shepherd of Israel, prevent Satan from sowing tares among the wheat and from destroying this Thy work of love. O Thou Ruler of heaven and earth, break asunder the fetter wherewith the nations still are bound; lift the shadows covering the heathen world.

Yea, Lord, increase Thy kingdom in every land. Enlarge the place of Thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of Thy habitations; spare not: lengthen Thy cords, and strengthen Thy stakes. For Thou shalt spread abroad on Thy right hand and on Thy left; and Thy seed shall possess the nations. Amen.

2. Prayers for Mission Services

Opening Prayers

1. FATHER of our Lord Jesus Christ, we thank Thee that we may call Thee Father, and may come unto Thee as Thy children with all our wants. We would be poor indeed, if we possessed not the comfort of Thy Word. Yet the millions of the earth know nothing of Thee, the Father of all grace, and go vainly to dumb idols for comfort and solace. We pray Thee for the spirit of love. Touch our hearts with a sense of the needs of all who know Thee not. Enable us gladly and cheerfully to participate in the task of proclaiming Thy Word and Name. Help us to bring unto Thee the thank-offering of loving intercession and cheerful giving. Remember especially the Gospel messengers everywhere. May they be equipped with power from on high and endowed with true humility, self-denial and love. Enable them to deliver many souls from the bondage of heathendom and from the superstitions of idolatrous worship.

Cause thy Word to find open doors and willing hearts in all parts of the unsaved world. Grant us wisdom and power, to carry the message of Thy Name to the ends of the earth, that all tongues may gladly praise Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

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2. DRAW nigh unto us, Lord Jesus, in Thy loving-kindness, as we are here assembled before Thee to remember Thy kingdom and to glory in Thy victories among the nations. May we recognize more perfectly the needs of our brethren, who are yet far from Thee. Awaken in us a zeal to carry unto them the glad tidings of salvation in Jesus Christ. Deliver us from the sin of indifference to the progress of Thy kingdom in all the world. Grant us to see clearly the inestimable value of the souls of the heathen and the unsaved in our own land, for whom Thou didst also

give Thy life as a ransom. May the glorious light of Thy Word show them the way of eternal life and lead them to a full recognition of Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

Hasten thy work of possessing the earth, for the kingdoms of the world are Thine, O Lord. Amen.

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3. GLORY be unto Thee, Jesus Christ our Lord, Saviour of the world. By Thy precious blood hast Thou bought all men to be Thine own. Thou hast commanded that the Gospel shall be preached unto all nations. Thy servants have earnestly labored to fulfill this Thy command; and many nations are walking in Thy light and are rejoicing in the rich blessings of the Gospel. But there are yet many millions who are ignorant of the way unto light and peace. Oh, may the message of life find its way unto them, that the day may be hastened, when all nations will worship and serve Thee.

We would also remember Israel in our prayers. On account of its unbelief Thou hast rejected and scattered Israel into all lands. O Lord, open Thou the eyes of the people of Israel and bring back the erring ones, that they may see the way of life and receive the fulfillment of the blessed promise given unto their fathers. Reveal Thyself everywhere as the merciful Saviour who seeks that which is lost and restores that which is gone astray, and gather unto Thyself Thy flock from all peoples, nations and tongues to the honor of Thy Name and to the praise of Thy divine glory. Amen.

Closing Prayers

1. ALMIGHTY GOD, our merciful Father in Christ Jesus, we thank Thee heartily for calling us unto eternal life through the Gospel of Thy Son. We humbly pray Thee, continue in our midst the preaching of Thy Word in all purity and the right use of the holy Sacraments. Vouchsafe unto us and our children faithful shepherds and teachers.

Graciously watch over Thy Church everywhere. Prosper Thy cause throughout our Country. Bless to this end the Home missionaries of our Church. Have mercy upon the heathen people, who are still in the darkness of sin and the shadow of death. Reveal unto them the saving power of Thy beloved Son Jesus Christ. Be Thou merciful unto Israel, that it may learn to acknowledge Jesus Christ as its promised Messiah and Saviour. Oh, that Ishmael, led astray by the false prophet Mohammed, might also see the light of God's salvation. Grant that the Cross of Christ may be raised where the Crescent rules today. Call together all Thy children from the ends of the earth, that every knee shall bow and every tongue confess, that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of the Father. Amen.

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2. O LORD our Saviour, hear the supplications and prayers for our brethren at home and in heathen lands. Open their hearts and deliver them from the bonds of sin. May they be more and more established in the Christian faith, which can enable them to resist the wiles of Satan and the temptations of their environments. Help them to press on with earnestness and firmness in the way of life.

Bless Thou everything we may undertake in Thy Name to lead those, who still go astray, into the light of Thy truth. Bless all associations and societies engaged in Thy work; bless the messengers that have gone forth, and let them follow the lost in wisdom, love and patience.

Especially do we commend to Thy loving care our missionaries in the homeland and in India. Thou hast graciously prospered their work in the past, and we pray Thee to continue Thy blessing in the future. Arise, O Lord, and vanquish Thine adversaries, that the nations may lie at Thy feet and all flesh may know and proclaim: Only in Jehovah is righteousness and strength. Amen.

XVI

Prayers for Children's Services

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1. AS LITTLE children gather around a father's knee, seeking a father's blessing, so we come to Thee, our Father, who art in heaven. We know that we are not worthy to be called Thy children, but we remember that Thou didst so love us as to give Thine only Son to die for us, and therefore with cheerful hearts we come to Thee and call Thee Father. O Father, put Thine arms around us and tell us Thou hast forgiven us, that we may look up into Thy face. And help us, Lord, from this moment never to forget whose children we are and whose Name we bear. We ask it for Jesus' sake, in whose Name we continue to pray:

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

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2. WE WILL praise Thee, O God, with all our heart. We will be glad and rejoice in Thee. For Thou hast crowned our lives with blessings and Thy mercies are innumerable. We praise Thee for life, for all its opportunities, its comforts, its innocent pleasures, its blessed experiences. We praise Thee for our Church and Sunday school, for the Bible, for all the opportunities which Thou hast

given us to learn of Thee. And above all, we praise Thee for the gift of Thy dear Son, our Saviour and Friend. Help us this day, O Lord, to praise Thee with our lives as well as with our lips. May we show our gratitude to Thee by living, as Thou wouldst have us live, and by being faithful to Thee in all things. All this we ask in Jesus' Name.

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

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3. O MERCIFUL Father, we give Thee hearty thanks for all Thy goodness and lovingkindness to us. It is to Thee, O Lord, that we owe all that we have. Thou didst give us our lives, parents and homes. Thou hast kept our hearts beating, and hast given us our food and clothing and all we have needed. Thou didst give us Thy dear Son to die for us, that we might live; and Thou hast given us our Sabbaths, our Bible, our Church and Sunday school, that we might have abundant opportunity to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. Lord, what shall we render unto Thee for all Thy goodness to us? Shall we not give ourselves to Thee? Master, help us! At this moment we would lay ourselves upon Thine altar. We offer ourselves as a thank-offering to Thee. Lord, accept us, all that we have and all that we are; accept us and use us for Jesus' sake.

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

(Appropriate for Children's Day Service.)

4. HEAVENLY FATHER. We come to Thee with songs of joy and gladness. We praise Thee because Thou hast been so very good to all. We thank Thee for life, and health, and strength; for our parents, and teachers and friends; for this world with its sunshine and rain, its flowers and fruits, its riches and wonders. Thou hast been very kind to prepare and preserve all these for us. Teach us to use all things rightly; this world, this life, this body and this time.

We pray Thee, O our God, teach us that all, young and old, are Thy children, and that we are standing in Thy presence. Bless these little ones in their songs and recitations. Help them to know that they are singing Thy glory and are speaking Thy praise. Protect and gladden their lives wherever they may go. Let their bright faces and beaming eyes be an inspiration to all who participate in these services.

Teach us how to love Thee, Lord Jesus, because Thou didst first love us. Help us to remember that the best way to love Thee is to obey Thee. And why should we not love Thee? Thou didst come from heaven to live and die on earth that all might be saved from sin and death. Forgive us all our wrongdoings. Cleanse our hearts from evil thoughts and desires. Help us to ever do what is right and to love Thee more and more.

Lord Jesus, teach us how to pray. Thou didst say that when we are in need we should ask of Thee. Grant, that we may always pray for the right things in the right way. Inspire our hearts to know more of Thee. Open Thy Word to us. Help us to understand the Bible because through it Thou dost speak to us. Let us never forget its commands and promises, and help us ever to live to serve Thee.

Be with us, O our Saviour, during this service and throughout this day. Make it a day of gladness and rejoic-

ing for all. Help us to remember its joy and its lessons. And whatsoever else we may need, we ask, even as Thou hast taught us to pray:

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

PART THREE

The Sacraments

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I

The Order for the Administration of Holy Baptism

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1. THE BAPTISM OF INFANTS

Opening Sentence

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. (Ro. 1: 7)

The Exhortation

Dearly Beloved: Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ has given commandment to His apostles to make disciples of all nations saying unto them: All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth. Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them into the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you. It was the manifest intention of the blessed Saviour, that little children should not be excluded from the benefits which were thus to be conveyed. The promise is not only to us, but also to our children. And it is written concerning the Lord Jesus Christ: They were bringing unto Him little children, that He should touch them: and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, He was moved with indignation, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me; forbid them not: for to such belongeth the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall in no wise enter therein. And He took them in His arms, and blessed them, laying His hands upon them.

Doubt not, therefore, but earnestly believe, that He is likewise willing to receive *this child (these children)*, and to embrace *him (her, them)* with the arms of His mercy, and to give *him (her, them)* the blessing of eternal life, and to make *him (her, them)* partaker of His everlasting kingdom.

But in presenting *this child (these children)* for consecration to God, you must remember that it will be your sacred duty to teach *him (her, them)* early the fear of the Lord, to watch over *his (her, their)* education, that *he (she, they)* be not led astray; to direct *his (her, their)* youthful mind to the Holy Scriptures, and *his (her, their)* feet to the sanctuary; to restrain *him (her, them)* from evil associates and habits, and, as much as in you lieth, to bring *him (her, them)* up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, that, if spared to adult years, *he (she, they)* may know and follow the will of God, and live and die a Christian.

Prayer

ALMIGHTY and eternal God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we entreat Thee in behalf of *this child (these children)*, that Thou wouldst grant *him (her, them)* that baptism which is from above, the washing away of sin, and that *he (she, they)* may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit. Receive *him (her, them)*, O Lord, according to Thy promise to hear our prayers, that *he (she, they)* may be adopted into the family of Thy saints, enjoy Thy perpetual benediction, and come into Thine eternal kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

The Confession of Faith

Dearly Beloved: The faith upon which *this child is (these children are)* to be baptized is the same as confessed throughout the entire Christian Church, and is as follows:

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ His only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the One Holy Universal Christian Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Question

Do you desire that *this child (these children)* shall be baptized upon this faith into the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and do you promise to instruct *him (her, them)* in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to teach *him (her, them)* to walk in accordance with God's holy commandments? Then answer: I do. *(We do).*

Answer

I do. *(We do).*

Baptism

The Minister pronounces the name and applies the water to the head of the Infant three times, saying:

N. . . . . , I baptize thee into the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The Minister shall then lay his hand on the head of the Infant, saying:

May the Almighty God endow thee with the Holy Spirit, protect and defend thee against all evil, strengthen and help thee in all good, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

or

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath begotten thee of water and the Holy Spirit, and hath cleansed thee of all thy sin, strengthen thee with His grace unto life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer

MERCIFUL GOD, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we praise Thy holy Name, and Thank Thee that Thou didst receive *this child (these children)* into the Church of Thy Son, and hast called *him (her, them)* to be partaker of Thine everlasting kingdom. We commend *him (her, them)* to Thy paternal care. Guide *him (her, them)* in the paths of righteousness for Thy Name's sake. Uphold *him (her, them)* with a free spirit that *he (she, they)* may overcome the temptations of this world by Thy power which is perfect in weakness. Graciously grant, O Lord, that *this child (these children)* and all of us may grow in Thy grace and be strengthened in the true faith and unfeigned devotion to Thee, that we may glorify Thee in our lives, and ever rejoice and be comforted by Thy covenant of grace. Sanctify us wholly, and grant that our spirit and soul and body be preserved entire, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Conclusion

The Minister may address the Parents or Sponsors, as follows:

Dearly Beloved: Forasmuch as you have now consecrated *this child (these children)* by Baptism to the service of the Triune God, may you remember that it is your duty to bring *him (her, them)* up, by precept and example, in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Thus you are to re-

mind *him (her, them)* of these baptismal vows, to instruct *him (her, them)* in God's Word and to aid *him (her, them)* to *his (her, their)* soul's welfare, so that *he (she, they)* may lead a godly, righteous and sober life. Finally, let it be your earnest endeavor to bring *him (her, them)* to Christian instruction and the preparation for Confirmation and the Holy Communion; that *he (she, they)* may heartily renew *his (her, their)* baptismal vows, renounce in *his (her, their)* own name all evil, the vanities of the world and the sinful desires of the flesh; and to profess our Saviour Jesus Christ by a holy life to the salvation of *his (her, their)* soul to the glory of God.

Benediction

And now may the peace, which passeth all understanding, guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus. Amen.

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2. THE BAPTISM OF ADULTS

Opening Sentence

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Address

The Candidates having presented themselves, the Minister shall address those assembled as follows:

Dearly Beloved: Forasmuch as all men are conceived and born in sin, and our Saviour saith: Except one be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God, I beseech you to call upon God the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, that in His bounteous mercy He may grant *these persons (this person)* that which by nature *they (he, she)* cannot have: that *they (he, she)* may be baptized with water and the Holy Spirit, and be received into Christ's holy Church, and be made worthy and active members of His kingdom.

Prayer

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, the Aid of all who are in need, the Helper of all who flee to Thee, the Life of those who believe, and the Resurrection of the dead; we call upon Thee in behalf of *these persons (this person)* that *they (he, she)*, coming to the holy Baptism, may by the washing away of their sins receive Thine everlasting grace. Receive them, O Lord, as Thou hast promised through Thy well beloved Son, saying: Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. Grant now that *these persons (this person)* may enjoy the everlasting benediction of Thy heavenly washing, and may come to Thine eternal kingdom which Thou hast promised through Christ our Lord. Amen.

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

Exhortation

Then the Minister shall address the Candidates, saying:

Dearly Beloved: It has pleased God in His infinite mercy to awaken in you a strong desire to become Christians, and to lead you, as we humbly trust, to true repentance and faith in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Of the sincerity of your purpose to lead a new life, and to seek an inheritance with the righteous beyond the grave, we have so far become satisfied as to accord to you our confidence and fellowship as Christian believers, entitled to a place in the Church of Christ, and to all the ordinances of the house of God. Among these ordinances is Baptism, to receive which you have now presented yourselves. For our Lord has commanded to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them into the Name of the Father and of the Son and

of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever He has commanded. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned.

On the day of Pentecost, when the multitude were moved in their hearts and inquired what they should do, the Apostle Peter answered: Repent ye, and be baptized, everyone of you in the Name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Then they that received His word were baptized. And now, following the example of the early saints, you stand here in the presence of God and of this assembly, to receive the ordinance of Christian Baptism.

The Confession of Faith

Let us therefore confess our Christian faith:

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ His only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the One Holy Universal Christian Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Question

The Minister then asks the Candidates for Baptism:

Do you solemnly consecrate yourselves to Christ and His service for ever, and do you promise that you will endeavor henceforth to keep God's holy will and commandments, and to walk in the same all the days of your life? Then answer: I do, with the help of God.

Answer

Each Candidate answers:

I do, with the help of God.

Baptism

Then the Candidates kneeling, the Minister shall baptize them, saying:

N. . . . . , I baptize thee into the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. With this Sacrament I receive thee into the Church of Christ.

Defend, O Lord, this Thy servant with Thy heavenly grace, that *he (she, they)* may continue Thine for ever, and daily increase in Thy Holy Spirit, until *he (she, they)* come into Thine everlasting kingdom. Amen.

or

The God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved entire, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

or

Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, who loved us, and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your heart, and keep you faithful unto eternal life.

Amen.

Prayer

ALMIGHTY and everliving God, who makest us both to will and to do that which is good and acceptable unto Thy divine Majesty, we give Thee thanks that Thou hast awakened in *these servants (this servant)* a sense of *their (his, her)* duty, and hast enabled *them (him, her)* to make a good confession (before many witnesses.) We pray Thee in *their (his, her)* behalf that Thy fatherly goodness may ever guide *them (him, her)*, and Thy hand ever protect *them (him, her)* against all evil of the soul. Forbid that *they (he, she)* should ever forget this solemn hour or the sacred covenant which *they (he, she)* have made. Let Thy Holy Spirit ever be with *them (him, her)*, and so lead *them*

(him, her) in the knowledge and obedience of Thy Word, that in the end *they (he, she)* may attain everlasting life through our Lord Jesus Christ, who with Thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

Benediction

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

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3. THE BAPTISM OF A SICK CHILD NOT EXPECTED TO RECOVER

Opening Sentence

Whether we live, we live unto the Lord; or whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. Amen. (Ro. 14: 8)

Address

Dearly Beloved: This being our Christian faith, let us draw nigh unto our Lord Jesus Christ, who has said: Suffer the little children to come unto me; forbid them not; for to such belongeth the kingdom of God, and let us consecrate this child unto Him, in order that, according to His wise providence, He may grant *him (her)* health and strength for this life, or bliss and glory with Him in eternity.

Confession of Faith

Let us confess our Christian faith.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ His only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; and sitteth

on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the One Holy Universal Christian Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Question

Addressing the Parents, the Minister shall say:

Do you desire that this child be baptized upon this faith, and do you promise to instruct *him (her)* in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, provided its life be spared, then answer: I do.

Answer

I do.

Baptism

The Minister shall then say, repeating the name of the Child:

I baptize thee into the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. May the Triune God bless thee according to His divine will in time and eternity. Amen.

Prayer

GRACIOUS Father in heaven. We are Thine in life and in death. Let Thy grace be manifested upon this child which we have consecrated unto Thee. It is Thy child, O Father, and we know that Thy love is greater than that of earthly parents. If it be Thy will, spare this child and grant that *he (she)* may recover. Not our will, but Thy will be done. Looking unto Thee, O Christ our Saviour and Redeemer, grant that we may find comfort and strength in Thee and Thy Word now and for ever.

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into

temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

Benediction

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

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II

The Order for the Administration of Holy Communion

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1. PREPARATORY SERVICE

(Confession of Sins and Absolution)

Opening Sentence

The Lord is in His holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before Him. Amen. (Hab. 2: 20)

Prayer

MERCIFUL God, heavenly Father, we thank Thee for the fountain of comfort and salvation, which Thou dost offer through Jesus Christ, Thy beloved Son, in the Sacrament of the holy Supper to all who hunger and thirst after pardon and righteousness. Renew us, we beseech Thee, through Thy Holy Spirit, that with humbleness of heart and penitent acknowledgment of our sins we may come to the Lord's Table. Fill us with the firm confidence, that in partaking of this heavenly nourishment our feeble faith shall be strengthened against all temptation. Sanctify our souls, and keep us from sinful diversion, that our minds may be fixed on our Lord and Redeemer only, and contemplate, how in His death He hath given Himself up for us all. Grant that we may draw nigh unto His Altar with the blessed resolution, henceforth to live in the faith of the Son of God, who hath loved us with a redeeming love. Amen.

Some Texts for Sermons at the Preparatory Service

Ps. 32: 1, 2; 51: 17; Is. 1: 16-18; 43: 24, 25; 44: 22; 53: 4, 5; Jer. 3: 12, 13; Pr. 28: 13; Ezek. 33: 11, 12; Mt. 11: 28-30; Mk. 1: 14, 15; Lk. 5: 31, 32; 19: 10; Jn. 1: 29; 3: 16; 15: 1-5; Ac. 20: 21; Ro. 8: 32; 2 Co. 5: 17-21; 1 Ti. 1: 15; 1 Jn. 1: 7-9; 2: 1, 2; 4: 9, 10; Rev. 3: 20.

The Exhortation

Dearly Beloved: Inasmuch as you intend to come to the Lord's Supper it behooves you to consider how the Apostle Paul exhorteth all persons diligently to examine themselves, before they presume to eat of this bread and drink of this cup. Whosoever shall eat the bread or drink the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. But let a man prove himself, and so let him eat of the bread, and drink of the cup. For he that eateth and drinketh, eateth and drinketh judgment unto himself, if he discern not the body. Let us, therefore, judge ourselves, that we may not be judged.

Hear what the Holy Scriptures say of the sinfulness of man and the necessity of repentance:

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. The imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth. That which is born of the flesh is flesh. There is no distinction; for all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God. I, the Lord, search the mind, I try the heart. And all things are naked and laid open before the eyes of Him with whom we have to do. He is not a God, that hath pleasure in wickedness; neither shall evil sojourn with Him. If we serve sin, live without repentance and harden our hearts, we treasure up unto ourselves wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who will render to every man according to his works. For there is no respect of persons with God. Repent ye therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts. Acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the Lord Thy God. Take heed, brethren, lest haply there shall be in any one of you an evil heart of unbelief, in falling away from the living God. To-day, if ye shall hear His voice, harden not your hearts. Con-

sider the things which belong unto your peace, and hasten to save your souls.

1 Jn. 1: 8; Gn. 8: 21; Jn. 3: 6; Ro. 3: 23; Jer. 17: 10; He. 4: 13; Ps. 5: 5; Ro. 2: 5, 6; Ro. 2: 11; Ac. 3: 19; Is. 55: 7; Jer. 3: 13; He. 3: 12; He. 3: 15.

Thus the Word of God reminds us of our unworthiness, thus solemnly it calls us to repentance; but as freely and fully does it also testify and proclaim unto us the unsearchable riches of divine mercy. As I live, saith the Lord Jehovah, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him. There shall be joy in heaven over one sinner that repenteth. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have eternal life. Be ye reconciled to God. Him who knew no sin He made to be sin on our behalf; that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Ezek. 33: 11; Ps. 103: 13; Lk. 15: 7; Jn. 3: 16; 2 Co. 5: 20, 21.

Having heard these exhortations of the Word of God, let us humble ourselves before God, confess our sins, and (upon bended knee) seek after grace and divine forgiveness.

Prayer of Confession

Then the Minister, on behalf of all who purpose to come to the holy Communion, shall offer the following prayer of confession:

ALMIGHTY GOD, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, I, a poor sinner, acknowledge and bewail my manifold sins and wickedness, which I have from time to time committed against Thy divine Majesty by thought, word and deed, from unbelief, ingratitude, unfaithfulness, and want of brotherly love, which have marred all my life, provoking against me most justly Thy wrath and indignation, in this world and in the world to come. I do earnestly repent, and am heartily sorry for these my transgressions, the remembrance of which is grievous unto me; the burden of them is

intolerable. I have no other comfort or hope, than Thy grace which aboundeth above my guilt, and the precious merits of my Lord Jesus Christ. Longing after this grace I say: Father, I have sinned against Heaven and in Thy sight and am no more worthy to be called Thy child; but I come at this time of grace to ask of Thee pardon and peace, new confidence toward Thee, and strength to lead a new and righteous life through Thy good and holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Communicants then rise and the Minister shall say:

I now ask you before the omniscient God, and upon the evidence of your own conscience:

Do you acknowledge and deplore your many sins with contrite heart?

Do you truly believe that our heavenly Father is willing, for Jesus' sake, to forgive all your sins?

Do you fully resolve to submit yourself in future to the gracious direction of the Holy Spirit, so that you may no more purposely sin, but be enabled to follow after holiness?

If so, make it manifest by saying: I do.

Answer

I do.

The Assurance of Pardon

Upon this humble confession which you have made, as a Minister of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by His authority, I declare unto you, who do truly repent and heartily believe in Jesus Christ, and are sincerely determined to amend your sinful life, the forgiveness of all your sins in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

But be it known unto all such as are impenitent and unbelieving, that their sins are retained; and in Christ's stead I earnestly admonish them to repent, to believe in the Gospel, and to be reconciled to God.

Prayer

ALMIGHTY and eternal God, we have sinned against Thee, and because of our sins have merited everlasting condemnation. But as we believe Thy beloved Son, our Lord, hath wrought for us everlasting salvation, and having the assurance of the forgiveness of our sins in Thy holy Word, and of absolution, we humbly beseech Thee, to fill us with the power of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may ever guard against sin, and in our holy calling live a truly pious life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Benediction

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

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2. THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

A. Form omitting Confession of Sins and Absolution

(To be used when the Preparatory Service has gone before.)

The Exhortation

Dearly Beloved: Forasmuch as we purpose to come to the holy Supper of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, wherein He giveth us His Body to eat and His Blood to drink, in order to strengthen and confirm our faith in Him, it behooves us diligently to examine ourselves. The Apostle Paul exhorteth: Let a man prove himself, and so let him eat of the bread, and drink of the cup. For this holy Sacrament is instituted as a special means to strengthen and comfort the troubled conscience of those who confess their sins, and who hunger and thirst after righteousness.

By partaking of this holy Supper we obey Christ's command: This do in remembrance of me, thereby proclaiming His death, by which He was delivered up for our transgressions, and then raised for our justification. Who-

soever eateth of this bread, and drinketh of this cup, firmly believing the words of Christ, dwelleth in Christ, and Christ in him, and he hath eternal life. Therefore, let us render unto Him most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits obtained for us by His death and resurrection; take up our cross and follow Him, and love one another even as He hath loved us. For we are all one body, even as we all partake of one bread, and drink of one cup.

Prayer

Glory be to Thee, O Christ, almighty and everlasting Son of the Father, that by the sacrifice of Thyself upon the cross, offered up once for all, Thou didst perfect them that are sanctified. We bless Thee that Thou didst institute and ordain, as a memorial and seal of this redemption, Thy holy Supper, in which Thou givest us Thy Body to eat, and Thy Blood to drink. Graciously grant, that being in Thee, even as Thou art in us, we may have eternal life, and may be raised up on the last day. Most merciful and exalted Redeemer, we humbly confess, that we are not worthy of the least of all the mercies, which Thou hast shown to us, and that by reason of our sins, we are too impure and weak, worthily to receive Thy saving gifts. Sanctify us, therefore, by Thy Holy Spirit, and prepare us to come to Thy holy Supper, to the glory of Thy grace and to our own eternal salvation. And if in our weakness we are lacking in true repentance and in living faith, do Thou graciously supply our want from the fullness of the merits of Thy sufferings and death, that our sinful life may be amended and our earnest purposes strengthened. Grant, that we, who now find in Thy communion our only comfort and strength, may at last in Thy heavenly kingdom see Thee face to face, and dwell with Thee for ever. Amen.

The Institution

Let us hear with reverent hearts the words of Christ, instituting this Holy Supper.

Our Lord Jesus Christ in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He brake it, and gave it to His disciples, and said: Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you; this do in remembrance of me.

In like manner also He took the cup, after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: Drink ye all of it; this cup is the New Covenant in my blood, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins; this do, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

Mt. 26: 26-28; Mk. 14: 22-24; Lk. 22: 19-20; 1 Co. 11: 23-25.

The Invocation

PRAISE, and honor, and glory be unto Thee, O Christ. The bread which we bless is the Communion of Thy holy Body, and the cup which we bless is the Communion of Thy holy Blood. O Thou everlasting Son of the Father, sanctify us by Thy Holy Spirit, and make us worthy partakers of Thy sacred Body and Blood, that we may be cleansed from sin and made one with all the members of Thy Church in heaven and on earth. Graciously hear anew the resolution of our hearts: Lord Jesus, for Thee we live, for Thee we suffer, for Thee we die, Thine will we be in life and in death. Grant us, O Lord, eternal salvation.

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

The Agnus Dei (Sung by the Congregation)

O Lamb of God who, bleeding,
Upon the cross did'st languish,
Nor scorn nor malice heeding,
So patient in Thine anguish,
On Thee our guilt was lying:
Thou saved'st us by dying:
Have mercy on us Lord Jesus. (Hymnal No. 145)

The Invitation

The Minister shall then say:

Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Thus our Lord invites all who truly repent and heartily believe, and vouchsafes to them His forgiveness and grace. Come, for all things are prepared. Taste and see how good the Lord is. Blessed are they who trust in Him. Amen.

The Communion

When the Communicants come to the altar, the Minister shall give the Bread, saying:

Take and eat, this is the Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you; this do in remembrance of Him.

When the Minister gives the Cup, he shall say:

Take and drink, this is the Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins; this do in remembrance of Him.

or

Take and drink ye all of it; this is the Cup of the New Covenant in the Blood of Christ, which was shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins.

The Dismissal

After those standing at the altar have communed, the Minister shall dismiss them, saying:

May this strengthen and preserve you unto everlasting life. Go ye in peace. Be it unto you according to your faith. Amen.

When all have communed, the Minister shall say:

Oh give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good: for His lovingkindness endureth for ever. (Ps. 136: 1)

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy Name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from de-

struction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

ALMIGHTY GOD, our heavenly Father, we most heartily thank Thee, that Thou hast again vouchsafed to nourish us with the precious Body and Blood of Thy dear Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. We humbly beseech Thee, graciously to strengthen us through this holy Sacrament, in faith toward Thee, in love toward one another, and in the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who reigneth with Thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

The Benediction

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make His face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. Amen.

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B. Complete Form of Lord's Supper

(Including Confession of Sins and Absolution)

Exhortation

Dearly Beloved: Our blessed Saviour Jesus Christ instituted the Sacrament of holy Communion, that it might be the abiding memorial of His atoning death; the seal of His perpetual presence in the Church through the Holy Spirit; the mystical representation of the sacrifice of Himself on the cross; the pledge of His undying love to His people; and the bond of His loving union and fellowship with them to the end of time.

The celebration of the Lord's Supper has ever been regarded by the Church as the innermost sanctuary of the whole Christian worship. We have to do here, not with outward signs merely, but with heavenly realities which these

signs represent. The Lord's Table can, therefore, be rightly approached only by those who are of a devout, repentant and believing mind. This holy mystery is not for the irreverent or indifferent.

If any of you, then, are conscious that you are the willing servants of sin, that you are without true repentance and faith, we solemnly warn and admonish you that ye presume not to come to the Lord's Table. For those doing so, eat and drink judgment to themselves; not because they are sinners, but because they are impenitent; not because they are unworthy, but because they eat and drink unworthily, not discerning the Lord's body.

On the other hand, we cordially invite all to partake of this Sacrament who are truly grieved and penitent for their sins, who look to Jesus Christ for righteousness and salvation, who abide in the fellowship of His Church, and who desire to possess His Spirit and walk in His ways. To all such the compassionate Redeemer Himself says: Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Ye, then, who have earnestly searched your own hearts, and who are truly penitent and desire to forsake all sin and follow after Christian holiness, as required by the Word of God, approach with me now to the throne of grace, and (upon bended knees) make your humble confession to Almighty God.

Confession of Sins

ALMIGHTY God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, I, a poor sinner, acknowledge and bewail my manifold sins and wickedness, which I have from time to time committed against Thy divine Majesty by thought, word and deed, from unbelief, ingratitude, unfaithfulness, and want of brotherly love, which have marred all my life, provoking against me most justly Thy wrath and indignation, in this world and in the world to come. I do earnestly repent, and

am heartily sorry for these my transgressions, the remembrance of them is grievous unto me; their burden is intolerable. I have no other comfort or hope than Thy grace which aboundeth above my guilt, and the precious merits of my Lord Jesus Christ. Longing after this grace I say: Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in Thy sight: and am no more worthy to be called Thy child; I come, however, at this time of grace to ask of Thee pardon and peace, new confidence toward Thee, and strength to lead a new and righteous life through Thy Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Communicants then shall remain standing, (or if kneeling, they shall rise) and the Minister shall say:

I now ask you before the omniscient God, and upon the evidence of your own conscience:

Do you acknowledge and deplore your many sins with contrite heart?

Do you truly believe that our heavenly Father is willing, for Jesus' sake, to forgive all your sins?

Do you fully resolve to submit yourself in future to the gracious direction of the Holy Spirit, so that you may no more purposely sin, but be enabled to follow after holiness?

If so, make it manifest by saying: I do.

Answer

I do.

The Assurance of Pardon

The Minister shall proceed as follows:

Upon this humble confession which you have made, as a Minister of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by His authority, I declare unto you, who do truly repent and heartily believe in Jesus Christ, and are sincerely determined to amend your sinful life, the forgiveness of all your sins in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

But be it known unto all such as are impenitent and unbelieving, that their sins are retained; and in Christ's stead I earnestly admonish them to repent, to believe in the Gospel, and to be reconciled to God. May the love and mercy of God lead them to sincere repentance and true faith. Let us pray:

Prayer

ALMIGHTY and eternal God, we have sinned against Thee, and because of our sins have merited everlasting condemnation. But, as we believe Thy beloved Son, our Lord, hath wrought for us everlasting salvation, and having the assurance of the forgiveness of our sins in Thy holy Word, and of absolution, we humbly beseech Thee to fill us with the power of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may ever guard against sin, and in our ~~holy~~ calling live a truly pious life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Institution

Let us hear with reverent hearts the words of Christ instituting this Holy Supper.

Our Lord Jesus Christ in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He brake it, and gave it to His disciples, and said: Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you; this do in remembrance of me.

In like manner also He took the cup, after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: Drink ye all of it; this cup is the New Covenant in my blood, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins; this do, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

(Mt. 26: 26-28; Mk. 14: 22-24; Lk. 22: 19-20; 1 Co. 11: 23-25.)

Invocation

PRAISE, and honor, and glory be unto Thee, O Christ! The bread which we bless is the Communion of Thy holy Body, and the cup which we bless is the Communion of

Thy holy Blood. O Thou everlasting Son of the Father, sanctify us by Thy Holy Spirit, and make us worthy partakers of Thy sacred Body and Blood, that we may be cleansed from sin and made one with all the members of Thy Church in heaven and on earth. Graciously hear anew the resolution of our hearts: Lord Jesus, for Thee we live, for Thee we suffer, for Thee we die, Thine will we be in life and death. Grant us, O Lord, eternal salvation.

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

The Agnus Dei (Sung by the Congregation)

O Lamb of God who, bleeding,
Upon the cross did'st languish,
Nor scorn nor malice heeding,
So patient in Thine anguish,
On Thee our guilt was lying;
Thou saved'st us by dying:
Have mercy on us Lord Jesus.

(Hymnal No. 145)

The Invitation

The Minister shall then say:

Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Thus our Lord invites all who truly repent and heartily believe, and vouchsafes to them His forgiveness and grace. Come, for all things are prepared. Taste and see how good the Lord is. Blessed are they who trust in Him. Amen.

The Communion

When the Communicants come to the altar, the Minister shall give the Bread, saying:

Take and eat, this is the Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you; this do in remembrance of Him.

When the Minister gives the Cup, he shall say:

Take and drink, this is the Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins; this do in remembrance of Him.

or

Take and drink ye all of it; this is the Cup of the New Covenant in the Blood of Christ, which was shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins.

The Dismissal

After those standing at the altar have communed, the Minister shall dismiss them, saying:

May this strengthen and preserve you unto everlasting life. Go ye in peace. Be it unto you according to your faith. Amen.

When all have communed, the Minister shall say:

Oh give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good; for His lovingkindness endureth for ever. (Ps. 136: 1)

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy Name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, we most heartily thank Thee, that Thou didst vouchsafe to strengthen us through this holy Sacrament. We praise Thee, that Thou dost assure us thereby of Thy grace in Jesus Christ. We rejoice that through this Sacrament our communion with Christ and all believers is strengthened, and that we have become heirs of Thine everlasting kingdom, by the merits of the death of Thy dear Son. We humbly beseech Thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us by the grace of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may continue in this holy fellowship, and

live and labor according to Thy holy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with Thee and the Holy Spirit, be all power, honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

Benediction

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make His face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. Amen.

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3. THE ORDER FOR PRIVATE COMMUNION

(Where the Sacrament is administered to invalids and to those who are ill.)

Opening Sentence

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Address

Dearly Beloved: Since you desire to receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper to comfort and strengthen your soul, remember the words of our Saviour: Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have eternal life. Thus our Lord offers Himself as our sacrifice and vouchsafes to us forgiveness and comfort.

In order that you may be worthy and well prepared, search your heart and conscience, remembering the Word of God: Let a man prove himself, and so let him eat of the bread, and drink of the cup, and, If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Thus draw nigh unto the throne of grace and with contrite heart confess your sins:

Confession of Sins

ALMIGHTY God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, I, a poor sinner, acknowledge and bewail my manifold sins and wickedness, which I have from time to time committed against Thy divine Majesty by thought, word and deed, from unbelief, ingratitude, unfaithfulness, and want of brotherly love, which have marred all my life, provoking against me most justly Thy wrath and indignation, in this world and in the world to come. I do earnestly repent, and am heartily sorry for these my transgressions, the remembrance of them is grievous unto me; their burden is intolerable. I have no other comfort or hope than Thy grace which aboundeth above my guilt, and the precious merits of my Lord Jesus Christ. Longing after this grace I say: Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in Thy sight: and am no more worthy to be called Thy child; I come, however, at this time of grace to ask of Thee pardon and peace, new confidence toward Thee, and strength to lead a new and righteous life through Thy good and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

or

ALMIGHTY GOD, my heavenly Father, I come before Thee deeply humbled on account of my manifold sins, which I confess unto Thee with sincere sorrow and heartfelt penitence. I desire to find peace for my soul through faith in Thy dear Son, whom Thou hast delivered up to suffer and die even for me, as well as for the sins of the whole world. Oh, sanctify unto me the celebration of this holy Supper. May it assure me of the forgiveness of all my sins for the sake of Jesus Christ, my dear Saviour. Hear my prayer, O Lord, for it is my sincere purpose to serve Thee with gratitude and faithfulness, and to do Thy holy will to the end of my days. Do Thou graciously strengthen me by Thy mighty power to live for Thee. O God, my hope is in Thee; have mercy upon me and give me Thy peace. Amen.

The Minister shall then say:

If this is your sincere prayer and confession, then declare it before the omniscient God by saying: Yes.

Answer

Yes.

The Assurance of Pardon

According to your faith be it unto you. As a Minister of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by His authority, I announce unto you the forgiveness of all your sins, in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Institution

Hear the Words with which our Saviour instituted the Lord's Supper.

Our Lord Jesus Christ in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He brake it, and gave it to His disciples, and said: Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you; this do in remembrance of me.

In like manner also He took the cup, after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying: Drink ye all of it; this cup is the New Covenant in my blood, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins; this do as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

The Invocation

O Lamb of God, who, though most innocent, wast slain upon the cross; who didst patiently and meekly bear the contradiction of sinners and the cruelty of Thine enemies; except Thou hast borne our sins we must for ever despair; have mercy upon us, O Christ. Amen.

The Communion

Take and eat, this is the Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you; this do in remembrance of Him.

Take and drink, this is the Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for you, for the remission of sins; this do in remembrance of Him.

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me bless His holy Name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits; who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies.

1. For all Cases of Affliction

HEAVENLY FATHER, we thank Thee that Thou hast refreshed and strengthened us through the holy Supper of our Saviour. We rejoice that through this Sacrament we receive remission of sins, life and salvation. Graciously bless this Communion unto our souls. Cause this heavenly food to strengthen and keep us in faith and love, in patience and hope, even under the trials and afflictions of life. We pray especially for this Thy servant who is afflicted, and humbly commend his (her) soul into Thy hands. Be Thou gracious and merciful unto him (her). Visit him (her) with heavenly consolation. Support him (her) in patience and submission to Thy will. Graciously restore him (her) to health of body, vigor of mind and cheerfulness of spirit. Enable him (her) to live the remainder of his (her) days to Thy glory, and finally bring him (her) and us to the life everlasting, through Jesus our Saviour, who taught us to pray:

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

2. For special and serious Cases

ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, we thank Thee for Thy rich mercy, vouchsafed to us in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Graciously bless this sacred Communion unto our souls, to the end that we may be able to present ourselves a holy and living sacrifice unto Thee through Jesus Christ, Thy Son and our Saviour. Merciful God, we pray particularly for this Thy servant, who is (seriously) ill. May it please Thee to deal compassionately with him (her). Send upon him (her) Thy healing power and virtue, both in his (her) body, and in his (her) soul and spirit. May it be his (her) great consolation to know, that Thou hast redeemed his (her) soul from eternal death, and made him (her) an heir of the everlasting life, which is through Christ Jesus our Lord. If it be Thy will, spare his (her) life for Thy service here on earth; but if Thou hast otherwise appointed, then graciously receive his (her) soul to Thee, O most merciful God and Saviour. Help him (her) to feel, that, whether living or dying, he (she) is Thine, and that nothing shall separate him (her) from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus. We humbly commend his (her) soul to Thee, and confidently ask that Thou wouldst do all things well with him (her) and us, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who has taught us to pray:

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

Benediction

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make His face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. Amen.

PART FOUR

The Order for the Rite of Confirmation

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I

Prayers for the Confirmands

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1. Prayer preceding the Instruction in the Catechism

NOTE. On the Sunday prior to the beginning of the instruction preparatory to Confirmation the Minister shall call upon the Congregation to pray for the Confirmands, saying:

Introductory Remarks

Inasmuch as the preparatory course of instruction for Confirmation will begin this week, the parents are urged to send their children regularly to the lessons, and to assist them in every possible way in the preparation of their lessons and the developement of their spiritual life. We would remind parents and sponsors of their Christian duty, and urge the entire congregation to remember these children in their prayers, in order that God may make them willing to faithfully accept His Word. Let us, therefore, now invoke His blessing upon this season of religious instruction, and pray:

Prayer

O GOD, who hast given us our children and hast redeemed them through Thy Son, sanctify them through Thy Holy Spirit, and prepare them for eternal bliss in heaven. Graciously behold these children consecrated to Thee in holy Baptism, who are to be instructed in Thy Word, so that they may with understanding and uprightness of heart re-

new their baptismal covenant. In this work upon which so much depends for us and our children, both now and in time to come, give us, O heavenly Father, Thy divine assistance. Endow parents, sponsors and pastor with grace and wisdom, that they may lead them unto Thee. Give unto each lesson Thy heavenly blessing. May the mighty deeds of Thy redeeming love be received by the children with willing mind and open heart, that they may be established in the way of salvation. Richly bless this season of their religious instruction in this life and for the life to come. Grant, that the parents of the Confirmands, and all closely affiliated with them, may in no way hinder the gracious work of Thy Holy Spirit. May they be led so to co-operate with Thee, that the children shall eventually renew their baptismal covenant with sincerity of heart, and present themselves a living and holy sacrifice, which is pleasing unto Thee. Hear us, O Lord, for Christ's sake. Amen.

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2. Supplication for the Confirmands during the Time of Instruction

NOTE. The Minister shall from time to time during the season of instruction include the following brief supplication in the General Prayer:

We also pray Thee to bless our Confirmands. Awaken and strengthen them through Thy Holy Spirit, that they may rightly understand the teachings of Thy Word and accept them with willing hearts. May they hunger and thirst more and more after Thy kingdom and Thy righteousness. Amen.

or

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who dost, for the sake of Jesus Christ, accept the intercessions of Thy people, remember in Thy great mercy, we beseech Thee, the Confirmands in this congregation and throughout Thy Church. By Thy Holy Spirit enlighten and instruct them in the

knowledge of Thee and Thy truth. Open their hearts to Thy law day and night. Strengthen and confirm them in the doctrine of Thy grace, and unite them more closely with Thyself and Thy Church.

Cleanse and keep from them all defilement of flesh and spirit, and let the indwelling of Thy Holy Spirit be their strength and safety. Prepare them for the fellowship with Thy Church here, and for the glorious communion with Thee and Thy saints in heaven · through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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II

Presentation and Testimony of the Confirmands

NOTE. When the period of instruction is ended, there shall be a public presentation of the Confirmands. It is to be brief and simple, giving evidence that the children have been taught the Christian doctrines and are qualified and willing to confess Christ. Unless local conditions make it necessary, this service ought not to be combined with the rite of Confirmation.

Opening Sentence

In the Name of God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Address to the Congregation

Dearly Beloved: The children (young people) here present, who by Baptism have been made partakers together with us of the grace of God, have assembled for the purpose of presenting themselves before their Saviour in the presence of this Christian congregation. By careful instruction in the truths of the Gospel, they have been brought to the knowledge of the way of salvation. It is now their wish and desire to be united more closely with their Saviour through the enjoyment of the blessed Sacrament of His holy Supper. In order to give evidence of their purpose, they are willing to bear testimony of their knowledge

of the fundamental truths of the Christian religion. In the Name of God, I therefore exhort you all, to hear the testimony of these young Christians in brotherly love, heartily and devoutly praying for them, that it may please God to establish and further the good work which He has begun in them through His Holy Spirit.

Prayer

ALMIGHTY GOD, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we praise Thy great mercy, with which Thou hast graciously remembered us since the days of our infancy. More especially do we thank Thee at this time, that Thou dost esteem the souls of our children precious in Thy sight, and hast received them through holy Baptism into the fellowship which is with Thee and Thy Son Jesus Christ, and hast hitherto protected them and brought them to the knowledge of divine truth through the study of Thy Word. Enable them to cheerfully confess their faith and hope. Give them Thy Holy Spirit, and so lead them in obedience to Thy Word and in knowledge of all truth, that they may live acceptably in Thy sight. Sanctify us, O merciful God, so that at last we may stand before Thee and become partakers of the glory, which Thou hast promised unto us and our children, through Jesus Christ, Thy dear Son, our Lord. Amen.

Testimony of the Confirmands

Closing Prayer

LORD GOD, our heavenly Father, we thank Thee for Thy gracious blessings hitherto bestowed upon the instruction of these children, and for the work of Thy Holy Spirit in their hearts. Forgive, in Thy great mercy, the indifference and neglect of parents and teachers in the religious training of these children; rectify all we have omitted and done amiss; and graciously accomplish in them whatsoever human effort cannot achieve. We also beseech Thee, not to remember against these children any disobedience or unfaithfulness. Create in them a clean heart, O God, and re-

new a right spirit within them through the precious blood of Jesus Christ, their Saviour. Mercifully help them to confirm and ratify with sincerity and earnestness the promise made in their stead at Baptism, so that the day of Confirmation may be richly blessed to them for all time and eternity.

Sanctify Thy whole Christian Church, especially our congregation, and grant, that it may grow in the number of living members who are willing to serve Thee. Incline the hearts of the parents and their children unto Thee; keep the old and young in Thy truth; yea, awaken all to love Thy Word, so that finally we may inherit the life everlasting, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

The Benediction

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III

The Order for the Confirmation of Children

NOTE. Only such Children should be presented for Confirmation, who have been duly instructed in the catechism of the Church, and of whom the Pastor is assured, it is their sincere desire to be confirmed.

Instead of the regular sermon, the Pastor may deliver an address suitable to the occasion. Then should follow an appropriate hymn and this order of Confirmation.

Opening Sentence

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen.

Introduction

Christian Friends: Confirmation is no Sacrament but an ordinance of the Church. It is instituted that those, who have been baptized in childhood may assume for themselves the obligations of the Christian faith and life. A season of religious instruction has preceded this day, in order that these children may be able intelligently to confess their

faith, promise unto their Lord obedience unto death, and thereby renew and ratify their baptismal covenant. In this manner they have been prepared to become partakers with us of the Lord's Supper.

Inasmuch as the young people here present have received this instruction and are voluntarily presenting themselves for Confirmation, let us unite in supplication to Almighty God, that it may please Him, by the grace of His Holy Spirit, to accept their devotion, confirm their vows and strengthen their purpose, that they may be kept in the true faith, and in purity and holiness of life, steadfast unto the end.

Prayer

O LORD GOD, our heavenly Father, who dost receive young people into Thy kingdom, and dost esteem their souls precious in Thy sight, we beseech Thee, mercifully to look upon these persons, consecrated to Thee in holy Baptism and duly instructed in Thy Word, and so to bless and govern them with Thy Holy Spirit, that they may be enabled to make a good confession of their faith. Enlighten them with a lively knowledge of divine things and increase in them the manifold gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, and the spirit of true godliness. May they ever live in the communion of Thy Church, in true faith and obedience to Thy Gospel, and continue steadfast in the covenant of Thy grace unto the end, through Jesus Christ, Thy dear Son, our Lord. Amen.

The Confession of Faith

Addressing the Candidates, the Minister shall say:

And now, beloved children, you may confess your faith before God and this congregation.

or

Beloved sons and daughters: The hour is come, in which you are publicly to confess your faith in the Triune

God and promise obedience unto your Lord. You may now make your confession of the faith upon which you were baptized.

Then, while the Congregation stands, the Confirmands repeat the Apostles' Creed.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ His only begotten Son, our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the One Holy Universal Christian Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Vows

I ask you, my friends, before this assembly and in the presence of God, who knows the secrets of all hearts:

(Short Form)

1. Do you this day renew the solemn promise made in your name at your Baptism, confirming and ratifying the same, and do you desire to be received into the fellowship of the Church of Jesus Christ and to partake of holy Communion? Then answer: I do.

Answer: I do.

2. Do you renounce sin and all ungodliness, and do you promise unto your Lord obedience unto death? Then answer: I do.

Answer: I do.

3. Do you promise with the assistance of the Holy Spirit to live according to the doctrines and precepts of Christ, as presented in the Holy Scriptures, and to remain faithful to the confession of the Evangelical Church? Then answer: I do.

Answer: I do.

(Long Form)

1. Do you sincerely believe in the Triune God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit? Then answer: I do.

Answer: I do.

2. Do you accept Jesus Christ as your only Saviour and Redeemer, desiring to consecrate your life to Him, renouncing sin and all ungodliness? Then answer: I do.

Answer: I do.

3. Do you believe the Bible, the Old and New Testament, to be the Word of God, and are you willing to obey its precepts, as these have been taught you? Then answer: I do.

Answer: I do.

4. Do you desire to renew the covenant of Baptism, to assume the obligation of the Christian Faith, to be received into membership with the Evangelical Church and to come to holy Communion with us? Then answer: I do.

Answer: I do.

Prayer of Consecration

Let us then kneel and pray:

The Congregation stands while Minister and Confirmands kneel.

COME, O Holy Spirit, into our hearts, and dwell in us, now and for ever. Confirm and establish our promises, and help us to keep them always. Lord Jesus, Thou good and gracious Shepherd, shield us that none may go astray. Draw us, O Father, to Thy Son, that we may abide with Him, and at last inherit everlasting life. Amen.

or

COME, GOD Holy Spirit, into our hearts, and dwell therein now and evermore. Do Thou affirm and seal all our promises, and grant us not only to will, but also to do as we have vowed, so long as we are in this world. Graciously keep all, so that not one be lost. And if, in the course of time, any one be led astray into the paths of unrighteousness, then do Thou lead such an erring one again into the path of life, Thou good and faithful Shepherd, our Lord Jesus! Draw us to Thy Son, O Father, to be His own, and live with Him in eternity, and to inherit the kingdom prepared for us. Amen.

The Confirmation

The Congregation being seated the Minister shall say to the Confirmands:

You may now come forward to receive the solemn rite of Confirmation by the laying on of hands, as your full and formal consecration to God's holy service.

or

Come now and receive the blessing according to the solemn rite of the Evangelical Church.

The Candidates come forward as directed by the Minister, and, kneeling before the altar, give the Minister their right hand, while he calls them by name and reads their memorial verse. Then the Minister shall lay the hand upon the head of each one, saying:

Heavenly Father, renew and multiply in this Thy servant the gift of the Holy Spirit. Make him (her) firm in faith, strong in godliness, patient under sufferings, and joyful in the hope of everlasting life, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

or

The Father of mercies multiply in you His grace and peace, enable you truly and faithfully to keep your vows, defend you in every time of danger, preserve you spotless unto the end, and finally bring you to rest with all the saints in glory everlasting. Amen.

or

Defend, O Lord, this Thy servant with heavenly grace, that he (she) may continue Thine for ever, and daily increase in the Holy Spirit, until he (she) come into Thine everlasting kingdom.

Amen.

or

Our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath loved us, and given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, comfort you, and keep you faithful unto eternal life. Amen.

or

The love of Christ so constrain you, that you may live henceforth not unto yourself, but unto Him who died for you and rose again. Amen.

Reception into the Membership of the Church

The Confirmed arise and are addressed by the Minister as follows. Or they may form a semi-circle about the altar, the Minister addressing them and giving each the right hand of fellowship.

Upon the voluntary profession and promises which you have made, I hereby acknowledge and declare you to be confirmed members of the Evangelical Church (this Christian congregation), (and give you the right hand of Christian fellowship and love); authorizing you to join us in the celebration of the Lord's Supper, and to participate in all our spiritual privileges, so long as your deportment shall correspond with the promises which you now have made.

Amen.

or

Dearly Beloved: After thus formally making your vow, to be faithful to the Lord God unto death, and, upon this your solemn confession and pledge, I hereby receive you into membership with the Evangelical Church, granting you the privilege to partake of holy Communion with us, and extending to you such other rights as are granted you by this congregation, so long as you will remain true to your confession and vows. The God of all mercies vouchsafe unto you the strength and assistance to fulfill your vows to His honor and the salvation of your souls. Amen.

Addressing the Congregation, the Minister shall say:

And now it behooves you, the members of this congregation, to acknowledge and receive these young people as God's children, your joint-heirs in Christ. Deem it your Christian privilege and duty to care tenderly for them, cheerfully rendering all Christian service to body and soul, as becometh those who are members together in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Closing Prayer

LORD GOD, our heavenly Father, we give Thee hearty thanks for Thy great goodness through which these Thy servants have attained unto the knowledge of the truth, so that they both believe with their hearts and confess with their lips Thy Son Jesus Christ and His Gospel. We humbly beseech Thee, that Thou wouldst further enlighten and strengthen them, that they may grow daily in all spiritual things, even unto salvation, and bring forth the fruits of faith and love, to the praise of Thy holy Name. May they remain steadfast until the day of Thine appearing, when, having fought the good fight, they shall receive the crown of righteousness through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive ous debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

The Benediction

Now the God of peace, who brought again from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep with the blood of an eternal covenant, even our Lord Jesus, make you perfect in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is well-pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

IV

The Order for the Confirmation of Adults

NOTE. While it may not be expedient to insist upon Adults memorizing the catechism, such who have been baptized in infancy should receive private instruction in the doctrine of the Church, as presented in the catechism, so as to enable the Applicants to make intelligent confession of their faith, previous to their reception into the Church by the rite of Confirmation.

In such cases, however, where Applicants have not been baptized in infancy, Baptism takes the place of Confirmation.

The Confirmation of Adults may take place at the conclusion of a regular Sunday or mid-week service, or privately in the presence of the Church Council.

Opening Sentence

In the Name of God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Introduction and Prayer

Dearly Beloved: The persons here present have by the grace of God and the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit expressed their willingness to unite with the Evangelical Church. Having been duly instructed in the essentials of the Evangelical doctrine and being convinced of the truth of the Gospel, it is their desire now to be admitted formally into the membership of our congregation. Therefore they have come to confess their faith, to promise allegiance and to receive the blessing of our Church.

Let us, therefore, invoke the blessing of God, and pray:

Prayer

ALMIGHTY GOD, our merciful Father, we praise Thy holy Name, and thank Thee that Thou hast established Thy kingdom among us and gathered a congregation in which Thy Word is preached and the holy Sacraments are administered. Especially do we thank Thee, that Thou hast

brought these friends to the knowledge of the blessed truth of salvation in Christ Jesus, Thine only begotten Son, our Saviour. We humbly beseech Thee to grant that they may cheerfully confess their faith. Do Thou enrich and strengthen them in the same. Richly bless them with heavenly gifts through Christ, and help them to give evidence of their faith by a religious and godly life, and to remain stedfast unto the end. May Thy blessings rest upon us all. Keep us in Thy communion unto life everlasting, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Reading or Address

Then the Minister shall deliver an address or read several passages of Holy Scripture.

Suitable Scripture Selections are: Mt. 5: 3-16; Ro. 3: 19-31; Ro. 8: 1-11; Ro. 10: 4-14; 1 Co. 1: 18-31; 1 Co. 3: 10-23; 2 Co. 3: 12-18; Eph. 1: 3-14; Eph. 2: 4-9; Col. 1: 9-14; 1 Ti. 6: 11-16.

Confession of Faith

Let us now confess our Christian Faith in the presence of the omniscient God and these Christian witnesses.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ His only begotten Son, our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the One Holy Universal Christian Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Vows

The Minister, addressing the Candidates, asks the following questions:

1. Do you believe the Bible, the Old and New Testament, to be the Word of God, and are you willing to obey its precepts, as these have been taught you? Then answer: I do.

Answer: I do.

2. Do you promise with the assistance of the Holy Spirit to live according to the doctrines and precepts of Christ, as presented in the Holy Scriptures, and to remain faithful to the ~~confession of the Evangelical Church~~? Then answer: I do.

Answer: I do.

The Confirmation

Thereupon the Minister shall say:

Then come and receive the blessing according to the solemn rite of ~~the Evangelical~~ Church.

The Candidates come forward as directed by the Minister, who shall lay his hand upon the head of each one, using one or more of the following forms:

Heavenly Father, renew and multiply in this Thy servant the gift of the Holy Spirit. Make him (her) firm in faith, strong in godliness, patient under sufferings, and joyful in the hope of everlasting life, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

or

The Father of mercies multiply in you His grace and peace, enable you truly and faithfully to keep your vows, defend you in every time of danger, preserve you spotless unto the end, and finally bring you to rest with all the saints in glory everlasting. Amen.

or

Defend, O Lord, this Thy servant with heavenly grace, that he (she) may continue Thine for ever, and daily increase in the Holy Spirit, until he (she) come into Thine everlasting kingdom. Amen.

Reception into the Membership of the Church

The Confirmed arise and are addressed by the Minister as follows. Or they may form a semi-circle about the altar, the Minister addressing them and giving each the right hand of fellowship.

Upon the voluntary profession and promises which you have made, I hereby acknowledge and declare you to be confirmed members of the Evangelical Church (this Christian congregation), (and give you the right hand of Christian fellowship and love); authorizing you to join us in the celebration of the Lord's Supper, and to participate in all our spiritual privileges, so long as your deportment shall correspond to the promises which you now have made.

Amen.

Closing Prayer

MERCIFUL GOD and Father, we give thanks unto Thee for the Church which Thou hast established as Thy visible kingdom on earth. We praise Thee that Thou dost continually call mortals into this communion with Thee. We rejoice that Thou hast enabled these persons to give evidence of their faith and make a good confession. May it be acceptable unto Thee. Grant them the joy which cometh to those who trust in Thee. Endue these Thy servants with Thy Holy Spirit. Keep them steadfast in faith and service, and grant, that, in the end, they may be among those who shall praise Thee eternally for the wonders of Thy glorious mercy.

And now, O Lord, we pray for Thy Church. Graciously extend Thy kingdom over all the world. May men everywhere acknowledge Thee as their Saviour and Redeemer. Let Thy Word dwell richly in all hearts. Give unto faith the victory which shall overcome the world. Grant, that all who believe on Thee may become living epistles known and read of all men. Make us as the living stones, built up as a spiritual house, acceptable to God, which shall endure unto eternity. And unto Thee, the

Saviour, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, be praise and honor and glory for ever.

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

Benediction

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make His face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. Amen.

PART FIVE

The Order for the Solemnization of Marriage

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FORM ONE

NOTE. The Minister should become acquainted with the laws of the commonwealth in which the marriage is to be performed. At the time appointed for the ceremony the persons to be married appear before the Minister, the Groom standing at the right of the Bride.

Opening Sentence

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Address

Dear Friends: You are here in the presence of God and of these witnesses to be joined together as husband and wife.

Marriage is an honorable estate, divinely instituted in the time of man's innocency. It was hallowed and blessed by the gracious presence of Christ at the wedding in Cana of Galilee. Furthermore it is compared by the Holy Spirit to the blessed union between Christ and His Church. The marriage obligations, therefore, should not be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, discreetly and in the fear of God.

For be you well assured, that whatever the tie of your affection, or your present anticipations may be, times of difficulty, moments of trial will come, when all the courage of a generous heart and all the piety of a true Christian will be required to sustain you. Let the Word of God, therefore,

be as the daily light unto your path. Let daily prayer be as the wings upon which to rise into the presence of God who is our refuge and strength. Moreover, let the House of God be your spiritual home, where you can find blessing and strength for the daily tasks and duties of life.

May you never lose sight of the sacred promises, nor of the mutual fidelity, affection and confidence which you now profess. By obediently following the Word of God, and faithfully adhering to your vows, you will not be disappointed in your hopes, but will be the support and comfort of each other during your earthly life. Thus you will be assured of peace and happiness on earth, and prepared for the everlasting life in heaven.

I entreat you, therefore, in entering upon and sustaining this hallowed union, to seek the favor and blessing of God whose favor is life: whose blessing maketh rich and addeth no sorrow.

Prayer

LORD JESUS, we beseech Thee, come with Thy blessing to this marriage. Graciously give to these thy servants a true conception of the obligations they are now to assume. With true intent and in utter unreserve of love may they plight their troth, and henceforth remain faithful to each other, till death do them part. Amen.

Vows

I now ask you, Mr. N....., do you take Miss (Mrs.) N..... here present to be your wedded wife, and do you promise to love, honor, sustain and cherish her, in joy and sorrow, in health and sickness, in prosperity and adversity, and to be faithful unto her as becometh a good husband, so long as you both shall live? Then answer: I do.

Answer: I do.

In like manner I also ask you, Miss (Mrs.) N....., do you take Mr. N..... here present to be your wedded husband, and do you promise to love, honor and cherish him, in joy and sorrow, in health and sickness, in prosperity and adversity, and to be faithful unto him as becometh a good wife, so long as you both shall live? Then answer: I do.

Answer: I do.

If married with a ring, the Groom shall place the ring, which the Minister hands to him, upon the fourth finger of the Bride's left hand.

If two rings are used, the Minister places the respective rings on the respective fingers of both parties.

During the ceremony the Minister shall say:

In token of these your mutual vows you bestow and receive this (these) bridal ring (rings). Let it (them) continue to you both a symbol of the purity and constancy of true wedded life, and a seal of those vows to which you now set your hands.

Join your right hands.

Forasmuch, then, as you have consented to live together in holy wedlock, and have plighted each to the other your sacred troth, as a Minister of the Lord Jesus Christ, I do hereby pronounce you husband and wife, in the Name of God the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

What, therefore, God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

Henceforth, you journey life's pathway together. Let love be the charmed word in the dialect of your home and hearts. And may God's constant benediction crown your union with ever increasing joy and blessedness through Jesus our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Prayer

O GOD, our heavenly Father, graciously seal with Thy blessing these holy vows. May this new marriage bond have Thine abundant favor, making the union of these two hearts more and more blessed as the years go by.

Grant, most gracious Lord, that they may be patient and gentle amid fretting and worrying cares; that they may make their pathway radiant with the bright shining of good deeds done in Thy Name and for Thy sake, and living virtuous and beautiful lives, may they finally receive the reward of the righteous in heaven.

Let Thy benediction, we beseech Thee, rest also upon the homes here represented, and upon the hearts that lean to this nuptial hour with tender interest and love for these that are married.

And finally, permit us all, heavenly Father, to share in the fellowship of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb and the Bride of the Lamb. In Jesus' Name we ask it. Amen.

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

Benediction

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make His face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. Amen.

✠

FORM TWO

Opening Sentence

In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Address

Marriage is a divine institution, and honorable to all who maintain therein a true fidelity. It unites two hearts and lives, blending all their interests and sympathies and hopes. It involves mutual love and devotion, service and sacrifice, purity and constancy. It is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, discreetly and in the fear of God.

I charge and entreat you, therefore, to walk as in the sight of God, and to keep sacred the vows of wedlock you are now to assume. Implore then at this moment the blessings of God, that He in His mercy may extend to you His favors and graces, and animate you to a faithful discharge of your obligations.

Prayer

O GOD our heavenly Father, Giver of all spiritual grace and Author of everlasting life, graciously bless these Thy servants who are to be married. Enable them to enter into the covenant of marriage with true hearts. Grant that they may ever remain in perfect love and peace together, and live according to Thy laws, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Vows

I now ask you, Mr. N. . . . . ,do you take Miss (Mrs.) N. . . . . here present to be your wedded wife, and do you promise to love, honor, sustain and cherish her, in joy and sorrow, in health and sickness, in prosperity and adversity, and to be faithful unto her as becometh a good husband, so long as you both shall live? Then answer: I do.

Answer: I do.

In like manner I also ask you, Miss (Mrs.) N....., do you take Mr. N..... here present to be your wedded husband, and do you promise to love, honor and cherish him, in joy and sorrow, in health and sickness, in prosperity and adversity, and to be faithful unto him as becometh a good wife, so long as you both shall live? Then answer: I do.

Answer: I do.

Join your right hands.

Forasmuch, then, as you have consented to live together in holy wedlock, and have plighted each to the other your sacred troth, as a Minister of the Lord Jesus Christ, I do hereby pronounce you husband and wife, in the Name of God the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

What, therefore, God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. Amen.

Prayer

O MOST HOLY and merciful God, graciously ratify with Thy favor and blessing the union into which these Thy servants have entered. Sanctify their hearts by Thy grace, and enable them to keep their mutual vows with loving and constant fidelity. Give them grace to commend themselves always to each other; to cherish a due regard for each other's feelings and opinions; to be just to each other's virtues and intentions; to be lenient to each other's failings and infirmities. May the fellowship of their wedded life be the dearer and purer, because of their fellowship with Thee, and may their love be glorified in Thy love. And, having been pious and virtuous here upon earth, may they at last enter Thy blessed kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive

us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

Benediction

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make His face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. Amen.

PART SIX

The Order for the Burial of the Dead

✠

I. The Regular Service

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Opening Sentences

Our help is in the Name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Ps. 124: 8.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Co. 1: 3.

Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him. For He knoweth our frame; He remembereth that we are dust. Ps. 103: 13, 14.

All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth; but the Word of our God shall stand forever. Is. 40: 6-8.

For we are strangers before Thee, and sojourners, as all our fathers were: our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is no abiding. 1 Ch. 29: 15.

I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth on me, though he die, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth on me shall never die. Jn. 11: 25, 26.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy begat us again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, unto an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you. 1 P. 1: 3, 4.

Scripture Lessons

GENERAL OCCASIONS

Psalm 90.

Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling-place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God. Thou turnest man to destruction, and sayest, Return, ye children of men. For a thousand years in Thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night. Thou carriest them away as with a flood; they are as a sleep: in the morning they are like grass which groweth up. In the morning it flourisheth, and groweth up; in the evening it is cut down, and withereth. For we are consumed in thine anger, and in Thy wrath are we troubled. Thou hast set our iniquities before Thee, our secret sins in the light of Thy countenance. For all our days are passed away in Thy wrath: we bring our years to an end as a sigh. The days of our years are threescore years and ten, or even by reason of strength fourscore years; yet is their pride but labor and sorrow; for it is soon gone, and we fly away. Who knoweth the power of Thine anger, and Thy wrath according to the fear that is due unto Thee? So teach us to number our days, that we may get us a heart of wisdom. Return, O Lord; how long? And let it repent Thee concerning Thy servants. Oh satisfy us in the morning with Thy lovingkindness, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Make us glad according to the days wherein Thou hast afflicted us, and the years wherein we have seen evil. Let Thy work appear unto Thy servants, and Thy glory upon their children. And let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us; and establish Thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish Thou it.

✠

Psalm 39: 4-13.

Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; let me know how frail I am. Behold, Thou hast made my days as handbreadths; and my life-time is as nothing before Thee: surely every man at his best estate is altogether vanity. Surely every man walketh in a vain show; surely they are disquieted in vain: he heapeth up riches, and knoweth not who shall gather them. And now, Lord, what wait I for? My hope is in Thee. De-

liver me from all my transgressions: make me not the reproach of the foolish. I was dumb, I opened not my mouth; because Thou didst it. Remove Thy stroke away from me: I am consumed by the blow of Thy hand. When Thou with rebukes dost correct man for iniquity, Thou makest his beauty to consume away like a moth: surely every man is vanity. Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear unto my cry; hold not Thy peace at my tears: for I am a stranger with Thee, a sojourner, as all my fathers were. Oh spare me, that I may recover strength, before I go hence, and be no more.

✠

Psalm 23.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside still waters. He restoreth my soul: He guideth me in the paths of righteousness for His Name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou hast anointed my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and lovingkindness shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

✠

John 5: 24-29.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth Him that sent me, hath eternal life, and cometh not into judgment, but hath passed out of death into life. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour cometh, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God; and they that hear shall live. For as the Father hath life in Himself, even so gave He to the Son also to have life in Himself: and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is a son of man. Marvel not at this: for the hour cometh, in which all that are in the tombs shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of judgment.

✠

1. Peter 1: 3-9.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy begat us again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, unto an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who by the power of God are guarded through faith unto a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, ye have been put to grief in manifold trials, that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold that perisheth though it is proved by fire, may be found unto praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ: whom not having seen ye love; on whom, though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice greatly with joy unspeakable and full of glory: receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

✠

2. Corinthians 5: 1-10.

For we know that if the earthly house of our tabernacle be dissolved, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal, in the heavens. For verily in this we groan, longing to be clothed upon with our habitation which is from heaven: if so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For indeed we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened; not for that we would be unclothed, but that we would be clothed upon, that what is mortal may be swallowed up of life. Now He that wrought us for this very thing is God, who gave unto us the earnest of the Spirit. Being therefore always of good courage, and knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord (for we walk by faith, not by sight); we are of good courage, I say, and are willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be at home with the Lord. Wherefore also we make it our aim, whether at home or absent, to be well-pleasing unto Him. For we must all be made manifest before the judgment-seat of Christ; that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

✠

1 Corinthians 15: 35-44.

But some one will say, How are the dead raised? and with what manner of body do they come? Thou foolish one, that which thou thyself sowest is not quickened except it die: and that which thou sowest, thou sowest not the body that shall be, but a bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other kind; but God giveth it a body even as it pleased Him, and to each seed a body of its own. All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one flesh of men, and another flesh of beasts, and another flesh of birds, and another of fishes. There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: it is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: it is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

✠

John 14: 1-3; 15-20; 25-27.

Let not your heart be troubled: believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I come again, and will receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may be with you for ever, even the Spirit of truth: whom the world cannot receive; for it beholdeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: ye know Him; for He abideth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you desolate: I come unto you. Yet a little while, and the world beholdeth me no more; but ye behold me: because I live, ye shall live also. In that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you. These things have I spoken unto you, while yet abiding with you. But the Comforter, even the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my Name, He shall teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said unto you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be fearful.

Revelation 7: 9-17.

After these things I saw, and behold, a great multitude, which no man could number, out of every nation and of all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, arrayed in white robes, and palms in their hands; and they cry with a great voice, saying, Salvation unto our God who sitteth on the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels were standing round about the throne, and about the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, These that are arrayed in the white robes, who are they, and whence came they? And I say unto him, My Lord, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they that come out of the great tribulation, and they washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple: and He that sitteth on the throne shall spread His tabernacle over them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun strike upon them, nor any heat: for the Lamb that is in the midst of the throne shall be their shepherd, and shall guide them unto fountains of waters of life: and God shall wipe away every tear from their eyes.

✠

Revelations 21: 3-5.

And I heard a great voice out of the throne saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He shall dwell with them, and they shall be His peoples, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God: and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and death shall be no more; neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain, any more: the first things are passed away. And He that sitteth on the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And He saith, Write: for these words are faithful and true.

✠

AT THE BURIAL OF A CHILD

2. Samuel 12: 15-23.

And Jehovah struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very sick. David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth. And the elders of his house arose, and stood beside him, to raise him up from the earth: but he would not, neither did he eat bread with them. And it came to pass on the seventh day, that the child died. And the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead; for they said, Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spake unto him, and he harkened not unto our voice: how will he then vex himself, if we tell him that the child is dead! But when David saw that his servants were whispering together, David perceived that the child was dead; and David said unto his servants, Is the child dead? And they said, He is dead. Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his apparel; and he came into the house of Jehovah, and worshipped: then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he did eat. Then said his servants unto him, What thing is this that thou hast done? thou didst fast and weep for the child, while it was alive; but when the child was dead, thou didst rise and eat bread. And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who knoweth whether the Lord will not be gracious to me, that the child may live? But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me.

✠

Psalm 103: 13-18.

Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him. For He knoweth our frame; He remembereth that we are dust. As for man, his days are as grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more. But the lovingkindness of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him, and His righteousness unto children's children; to such as keep His covenant, and to those that remember His precepts to do them.

Matthew 18: 1-6; 10, 14.

In that hour came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And He called to Him a little child, and set him in the midst of them, and said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye turn, and become as little children, ye shall in no wise enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me: but whoso shall cause one of these little ones that believe on me to stumble, it is profitable for him that a great millstone should be hanged about his neck, and that he should be sunk in the depth of the sea. See that ye despise not one of these little ones: for I say unto you, that in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven. Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.

✠

Mark 10: 13-16.

And they were bringing unto Him little children, that He should touch them: and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, He was moved with indignation, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me; forbid them not: for to such belongeth the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall in no wise enter therein. And He took them in His arms, and blessed them, laying His hands upon them.

✠

AT THE BURIAL OF A YOUNG MAN

Luke 7: 11-17.

And it came to pass soon afterwards, that He went to a city called Nain; and His disciples went with Him, and a great multitude. Now when He drew near to the gate of the city, behold, there was carried out one that was dead, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not. And He came nigh and touched the bier: and the bearers stood still. And He said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise. And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And He

gave him to his mother. And fear took hold on all: and they glorified God, saying, A great prophet is arisen among us: and, God hath visited His people. And this report went forth concerning Him in the whole of Judaea, and all the region round about.

✠

AT THE BURIAL OF A MAN IN MIDDLE LIFE

John 11: 11; 20-27.

Jesus saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus is fallen asleep; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep. Martha therefore, when she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him: but Mary still sat in the house. Martha therefore said unto Jesus, Lord, if Thou hædst been here, my brother had not died. And even now I know that, whatsoever Thou shalt ask of God, God will give Thee. Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. Martha saith unto Him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day. Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth on me, though he die, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth on me shall never die. Believest thou this? She saith unto Him, Yea, Lord: I have believed that Thou art the Christ, the Son of God, even He that cometh into the world.

✠

AT THE BURIAL OF A YOUNG WOMAN

Matthew 9: 18, 19; 23-26.

While He spake these things unto them, behold, there came a ruler, and worshipped Him, saying, My daughter is even now dead: but come and lay Thy hand upon her, and she shall live. And Jesus arose, and followed him, and so did His disciples. And when Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the flute-players, and the crowd making a tumult, He said, Give place: for the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed Him to scorn. But when the crowd was put forth, He entered in, and took her by the hand; and the damsel arose. And the fame hereof went forth into all that land.

✠

AT THE BURIAL OF A PERSON WHO DIED SUDDENLY

Behold, Thou hast made my days as handbreadths; and my lifetime is as nothing before Thee: surely every man at his best estate is altogether vanity. Ps. 39: 5.

For we are strangers before Thee, and sojourners, as all our fathers were: our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is no abiding. 1 Ch. 29: 15.

Thou carriest them away as with a flood; they are as a sleep: in the morning they are like grass which groweth up. In the morning it flourisheth, and groweth up; in the evening it is cut down, and withereth. Ps. 90: 5, 6.

Boast not thyself of to-morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth. Pr. 27: 1.

Come now, ye that say, To-day or to-morrow we will go into this city, and spend a year there, and trade, and get gain: whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. What is your life? For ye are a vapor that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. Ja. 4:13, 14.

There is but a step between me and death. 1. S. 20: 3.

Look therefore carefully how ye walk, not as unwise, but as wise; redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Eph. 5: 15, 16.

Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; let me know how frail I am. Ps. 39: 4.

So teach us to number our days, that we may get us a heart of wisdom. Ps. 90: 12.

And the dust returneth to the earth as it was, and the spirit returneth unto God who gave it. Ec. 12: 7.

There shall be a resurrection both of the just and unjust. Ac. 24: 15.

For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. 1 Co. 15: 21, 22.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. But when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. 1 Co. 15: 53, 54.

Prayers

AT THE BURIAL OF A CHILD

O MOST MERCIFUL GOD, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the shadow of Thy sore judgment we come to Thee as our only Helper. Thou art the Lord, and beside Thee there is none else. Behold us, we pray Thee, with a father's compassion, as we now lift up our hearts unto Thee. Thou art our only refuge and strength. All earthly comforts do but wither and fade away. Thou givest for a little time, and then takest again. The flower is cut down in the tender bud, and death spareth not even the innocence of childhood. O Lord, let not our faith in Thy righteous goodness be shaken by the mystery of Thy ways. With all our trials, help us still to put our trust in Thee. Send forth the consolation of Thy Word especially into the hearts of all who mourn the early death of this child. Give to the afflicted parents a meek submission to Thy fatherly chastening. Help them to realize, that the flower which has faded here still blooms immortal in heaven. Grant, that with peaceful confidence they may lean upon Thy promises, and that they may not sorrow beyond what is meet and right. May this affliction draw them into still closer communion with Thee, and grant unto them a glorious immortality. And at last, grant unto all these little ones whom Thou hast called, and to all Thy redeemed, the everlasting portion and rest, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. Amen.

or

O THOU ETERNAL GOD, we acknowledge Thee as the Author and Lord of all life. Thou takest away and who can hinder Thee, or say, What doest Thou? We know that Thou art too wise to make mistakes, and too good to be unkind. Thou knowest the sorrow and anguish which the

removal of this dear child has caused unto these parents. Therefore, we beseech Thee, to speak unto their hearts words of solace and hope, and to recall to their minds the words: What I do thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter. Give them the comforting assurance, that this child is not lost, but removed to Thine eternal and glorious home, which is also our goal, and where we shall meet again those whom we have loved and lost awhile. Do Thou quiet the troubled soul of these mourners, give to them the grace of submission to Thy will and wisdom, and an increasing devotion to Thee and Thy service. Help us all, who are assembled here, to become as little children in faith, obedience and love to Thee. May we receive joy or affliction as coming from Thee to prepare and win us for Thy kingdom. In Jesus' Name we ask it. Amen.

AT THE BURIAL OF ONE WHO DIED IN MATURE LIFE

ALMIGHTY and most merciful God, in whose hands are all the children of men. Thou art the sovereign Ruler over all, and we acknowledge our dependence upon Thee. Have mercy upon us, O Lord God, and let us now find favor in Thy sight. Help us, we beseech Thee, to attend to the solemn lesson of this mournful occasion. Remind us anew, that it is appointed unto men once to die, and after this cometh judgment. Teach us to number our days, that we may get us a heart of wisdom. Spare us yet a little that we may recover strength, before we go hence and be seen no more. Give us grace to live and labor for Thy Son, Jesus Christ, that when He, who is our life, shall be manifested, we also may be manifested with Him in glory.

Lord, Thou art our only refuge in times of trouble. To Thy fatherly goodness do we commend those, whom Thou hast afflicted. Let the pains of their bereavement be softened by the hopeful assurance of Thy Holy Word. Cause the fruits of this their chastening to be righteousness and

peace. Let the removal of their loved and cherished one serve to direct their affections heavenward, that they may seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth. Remember to them Thy gracious covenant of old, and let not Thy mercy depart from them. Help them to understand that all things work together for good to them that love Thee. May they not sorrow as those who have no hope, but have a far more exceeding weight of glory for all their sufferings upon earth. These blessings, and all others which may be needful for us, and for all, we humbly ask in the Name and for the sake of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

or

ALMIGHTY GOD, our heavenly Father, we thank Thee for Thy Word, which is a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path. We thank Thee especially that in the night of our grief and in the darkness of our sorrow we are not left to ourselves, but have the stars of Thy divine promises to cheer and comfort us. O Lord, open Thou our eyes, that we may see that which Thou hast intended for our consolation. Grant, that Thy gracious purpose in this affliction may not be hidden from these sorrowing friends. May they realize, that by this dispensation of Thy providence Thou dost invite them to Thyself. Convince them of Thy goodness and enable them to realize that: Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy cometh in the morning.

Give us faith to know that Thou art our light and our salvation. Deliver us from the bondage of sin, that we may be free from the fear of death. Inspire us to faithfulness in that which Thou hast given us to do, so that when Thou callest us to give account, we may be ready and prepared to meet Thee. Whether we live, may we live unto the Lord, or whether we die, may we die unto the Lord. Unite us with Christ Jesus, and comfort and strengthen us through the Holy Spirit, that whether living or dying, we may be the Lord's. Amen.

AT THE BURIAL OF AN AGED PERSON

O LORD GOD of our fathers, we bless Thee for the holy triumph of Thy saints in every age and among all people. We thank Thee for all that Thou hast done for this aged pilgrim. Thou hast satisfied him (her) with long life, Thou hast shown him (her) Thy salvation. Thy grace has been sufficient for him (her), and we thank Thee that he (she) now comes to his (her) grave in a full age, like as a shock of grain cometh in in its season. We thank Thee for all that his (her) life has been to the bereaved ones. And as their hearts are now filled with sorrow at the thought of separation, graciously comfort them with the assurance of Thine undying love. Mercifully direct their thoughts and affections heavenward, to Thy house with its many mansions. Grant that the memory of the departed be a blessed inspiration to a holy, godly life. Sanctify unto us all our afflictions. Help us to realize more and more that we are not of the world, but strangers and sojourners before Thee, O God, and that while we live in this world, our citizenship is in heaven. And when all suffering is ended and all trials are over, may we gladly follow Thy summons to the eternal home. Help us to rejoice that there we shall put off the robe of mortality soiled by the struggles and temptations of this life, and that there we shall put on, by Thy grace, the robe of righteousness. As heirs of Thine eternal kingdom above, may we rejoice and be triumphant, because Thou, O God, didst give us the victory over sin and death, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

AT THE BURIAL OF ONE WHO DIED SUDDENLY

O LORD GOD, in this hour of grief we are made to realize that there is but a step between us and death. We are impressed with the uncertainty of life and the certainty of death. Our life is as a vapor that appeareth for a little time, and then vanishes away. Thou knowest, O Lord, the

great and heartrending sorrow that this sudden departure of our brother (sister) has brought to his (her) beloved ones. In their behalf we boldly come unto Thy throne of grace, that they may receive mercy and may find comfort and help in this time of need. Oh wilt Thou graciously assure them, that Thou dost not willingly grieve or afflict the children of men. Teach us to know that Thy thoughts are higher than our thoughts and Thy ways higher than our ways. May the bereaved not sorrow as those who have no hope, but willingly resign themselves into Thy hands who bringest life out of death and who turnest grief into eternal joy. Bless unto us all the lesson of this mournful occasion, and since we know not what a day may bring forth, teach us not to trust the uncertain future, but while we live consider the things which belong unto our peace. May it be our chief concern to gain Christ and be found in Him, knowing that there is no condemnation to them, that are in Christ Jesus, in whom we have everlasting life. Help us to cling by faith to Him who is the light of our countenance, so that even though death overcome us, we may be assured, that God giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. And to Thy great Name shall be the praise now and for ever. Amen.

AT THE BURIAL OF ONE WHO DIED AFTER LONG SUFFERING

ETERNAL GOD, heavenly Father, as we review the life of him (her) whose earthly career has come to a close, we are constrained to confess, Now we see in a mirror darkly. Considering the great tribulation which he (she) has endured, the long affliction through which he (she) has passed, we cannot but say: Thy ways, O Lord, are past finding out. But while now we see only darkly and imperfectly, we are sustained by our faith in the promise, Then shall we see face to face; then shall I know fully even as also I was fully known. We rejoice to think of the place where all

darkness is dispelled and heavenly light and beauty has become our portion. We trust that our brother (sister) has passed through the dark valley and come to understand God's mysteries. May he (she) look back upon the path of discipline, through which he (she) has been divinely led, and now exclaim: The Lord God hath done all things well. Strengthen in us the hope in Thee, the living God, our loving Father, through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Saviour. Help us, our Father, to look not on the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. Teach us, O Lord Jesus, to pray with humble submission and steadfast faith: Not my will, but Thine, be done. Give unto us the spirit of triumph in all the perplexities of life. Make us glad according to the days wherein Thou hast afflicted us, and the years wherein we have seen evil. Let Thy work appear unto Thy servants, and Thy glory upon their children, now and for evermore. Amen.

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II. The Service at the Grave

At the grave, the Minister shall say:

Man, that is born of a woman, is of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.

In the midst of life we are in death. Of whom may we seek for help, but of Thee, O Lord, who for our sins art justly displeased? Yet, O Lord most holy, O Lord most mighty, O holy and most merciful Saviour: deliver us not into the bitter pains of eternal death. Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts; shut not Thy merciful ears to our prayers; but spare us, and suffer us not, at the last hour, for any pains of death, to fall from Thee.

Amen.

or

Jesus saith, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth on me, though he die, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth on me shall never die.

We brought nothing into this world, neither can we carry anything out. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the Name of the Lord.

or

None of us liveth to himself, and none dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; or whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

The Committal

Forasmuch as it hath pleased Almighty God, in His wise providence, to take out of this world the soul of the departed (of our brother, sister, of this child) we therefore commit his (her) body to* the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; looking for the general resurrection in the last day, and the life of the world to come, through our Lord Jesus Christ; at whose second coming in glorious majesty to judge the world, the earth and the sea shall give up their dead; and the corruptible bodies of those who sleep in Him shall be fashioned anew, and be conformed to the body of His glory; according to the working whereby He is able even to subject all things unto Himself. Amen.

* When the body is to be placed in a vault, substitute "this receptacle for the dead" for "the ground."

or

It is written, Dust thou art and unto dust thou shalt return. And we know that sooner or later we, too, must go the way of all the earth. But we believe in Him who has abolished death and hath brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. In the Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, we therefore commit this body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; trusting to find in Christ our comfort in this life and in the world to come life everlasting. And to the Triune God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit shall be glory, and honor, and praise for evermore. Amen.

or

Forasmuch as this our fellow pilgrim has been removed from our midst by death, we now commit the body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; commending the immortal soul into the hands of Him who is able to redeem and mighty to save. Amen.

(See Prayers pages 218, 219)

✠

AT THE BURIAL OF A CHILD

Our dear Redeemer saith, Suffer the little children to come unto me; forbid them not: for to such belongeth the kingdom of God.

He will gather the lambs in His arm, and carry them in His bosom. They shall not hunger nor thirst, neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for He that hath mercy on them will lead them, even by springs of water will He guide them.

While the child was yet alive, we fasted and wept: for we said, Who knoweth whether Jehovah will not be gracious to us, that the child may live? But now it is dead, wherefore should we fast? Can we bring it back again? We shall go to it, but it will not return to us. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the Name of the Lord.

The Committal

Forasmuch as it hath pleased Almighty God to remove the spirit of this little child to His bosom, we commit its precious tenement of clay to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; in the joyful hope of the general resurrection at the last day, and a blissful immortality in the paradise of God.

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven; hallowed be thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

(For Benedictions see Page 219)

Prayers at the Grave

O MOST MERCIFUL GOD, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Resurrection and the Life, and who by His rest in the tomb hath sanctified the graves of Thy saints; who hath also taught us not to sorrow as men without hope for those who sleep in Him; receive, we pray Thee, our hearty thanks for that victory which Thou hast obtained for us and for all who sleep in Jesus. We humbly beseech Thee, O Father, to raise us from the death of sin unto the life of righteousness; that when we depart this life, we may rest in Him; and that at the resurrection we may be found acceptable in Thy sight, and receive that blessing which Thy well-beloved Son shall then pronounce upon all who loved and served Thee, saying, Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. Grant this, we beseech Thee, O merciful Father, through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Amen.

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

or

ALMIGHTY GOD, with whom do live the spirits of those who depart in the Lord, and with whom the souls of the faithful, delivered from the burden of the flesh, are in bliss and joy; we give Thee hearty thanks for the good example of all Thy servants who have finished their course in faith and now rest from their labors. We beseech Thee, that with all who have loved and served Thee, we may come into heavenly perfection of body and soul, in Thine eternal glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

or

O LORD our God, whose days are without end, we are again reminded that we live in a dying world, and that we do fade as a leaf. But we bless Thee for Thy revelation to us, that what we now behold and experience is not our final state. By faith we see a new heaven and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness, and where the spirits of just men are made perfect. Though death may dissolve the earthly house of our tabernacle, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal, in the heavens. And since this assurance comes to us through Christ our Redeemer, who is the Resurrection and the Life, may it be our constant and supreme concern to abide in Him through living faith. May this faith enable the bereaved to rejoice in the triumph of Thy saints and to look forward to the reunion with the departed in heaven, where they shall be for ever with the Lord. Amen.

✠

Benedictions

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen.
2 Co. 13: 14.

or

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus. Now unto our God and Father be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.
Ph. 4: 7, 20.

or

Now the God of peace, who brought again from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep with the blood of an eternal covenant, even our Lord Jesus, make you perfect in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is well-pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be the glory for ever and ever. Amen. He. 13: 20, 21.

PART SEVEN

The Order for the Ordination of a Minister

✠

NOTE. The Ordination of a Minister may occur after the sermon at a regular service, or at a service specially arranged. In either case the sermon should set forth the significance of the office of a Minister of the Gospel in the Evangelical Church.

After the sermon, the Minister, who has been appointed by the District President to conduct the Ordination, and his Assistants, take their places before the altar, while the Candidate arises and stands before them, all being properly vested.

Opening Sentence

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Introduction

We are assembled to ordain this brother N..... to the sacred office and work of the Christian ministry in accordance with the Word of God and the order of the Evangelical Church. Let us therefore invoke the aid and blessing of Almighty God upon this our undertaking.

Prayer

ALMIGHTY GOD, our heavenly Father, we heartily thank Thee for the Church of Thy dear Son, our Lord; for the Gospel of salvation through faith in His Name, and for the ministry which was instituted to proclaim this faith and which has been preserved to this day.

Lord Jesus, we pray Thee for Thy Church. Make it indeed Thy Church: one, holy and universal; beautiful in its service of love, and glorious in its conquests for Thee.

Bless Thy ministers everywhere. Quicken them in Thy Word, which is truth, and strengthen them for their tasks. In mercy behold Thy servant who is to be ordained to-day. Set him apart to Thy service. Anoint him with Thy Spirit of wisdom, truth and love. Adorn him with purity of life. Consecrate him as Thou didst Thy servants, the apostles, so that by word and example he may faithfully serve Thee to the glory of Thy Name and the edification of Thy Church. And to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit be glory, praise and honor for ever. Amen.

The Charge

Beloved Brother in Christ:

Since you have been called to the sacred office of the Christian ministry and have been found willing to enter into the same, I exhort you diligently to hear and keep in remembrance what Jesus Christ, the chief Shepherd, has declared in His own words and through the testimony of His holy apostles concerning this important office.

First Assistant

In Matthew 28: 18-20 we read of the great commission which Jesus Christ gave to His disciples and to all His ministers: All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth. Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.

According to John 20: 21-23 the risen Lord said to His disciples: Peace be unto you: as the Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Spirit: whose soever sins you forgive, they are forgiven unto them; whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.

And after He ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things, He gave some to be apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, unto the work of ministering, unto the building up of the body of Christ. (Ephesians 4: 10-12.)

Thus we realize that the Lord Himself did establish the ministry of reconciliation, not of the letter but of the spirit, to proclaim justification, life and salvation, and no one is sufficient of himself to be a minister of the new covenant but our sufficiency is from God. (2 Corinthians 3: 5.)

Second Assistant

Therefore the Apostle Paul also charges Timothy as follows, 1. Timothy 3: 1-5: Faithful is the saying, If a man seeketh the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. The bishop therefore must be without reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, orderly, given to hospitality, apt to teach; no brawler, no striker; but gentle, not contentious, no lover of money; one that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; but if a man knoweth not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the Church of God.

2. Timothy 4: 1-5. I charge thee in the sight of God, and of Christ Jesus, who shall judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the Word; be urgent in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all long-suffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure the sound doctrine; but, having itching ears, will heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn aside unto fables. But be thou sober in all things, suffer hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill thy ministry.

First Assistant

And the Apostle Peter tells us in his first Epistle, in chapter 5: 2-4: Tend the flock of God which is among you, exercising the oversight, not of constraint, but willingly, according to the will of God; nor yet for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; neither as lording it over the charge allotted to you, but making yourselves ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall be manifested, ye shall receive the crown of glory that fadeth not away.

Second Assistant

In like manner the Apostle Paul admonishes the elders of the Church of Ephesus, saying Acts 20: 28, 29, 31: Take heed unto yourselves, and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit hath made you bishop, to feed the Church of the Lord which He purchased with His own blood. I know that after my departing grievous wolves shall enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Wherefore watch ye.

The Minister in charge

Beloved Brother: You have heard what the Word of God says concerning our office, which has its origin not with man but with our Lord Jesus Christ and His holy apostles. You will now note the special duties involved in the above charge and required of an Evangelical minister.

In accordance with the articles of faith of the Evangelical Church you are to preach and teach no doctrines but those that are based upon God's Word, the Old and New Testament, the sole and infallible guide of faith and life. You are also to administer the holy Sacraments in the manner instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ as taught in the Holy Scriptures and observed by our Church.

You are to exercise great care and diligence to instruct the children and youth in God's Word, so that they may grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Endeavor so to direct them that they may become worthy and consistant members of the Church, which is the body of Christ.

Furthermore, you are to minister to every person entrusted to your pastoral care wisely and faithfully. Let your ministry be one of instruction, exhortation, admonition and comfort to old and young, sick and well, rich and poor, to those enlightened by the Holy Spirit as well as those yet in darkness of sin. When necessary do not hesitate to resort to disciplinary measures, that those among whom you labor may grow in the knowledge of truth and walk as children of light.

Ever remember that in your personal life a prominent place should be given to prayer and study, that you may increase in the knowledge of the Word of God, be established in the Christian doctrines, and advance in those branches of learning which will benefit you in your work. Avoid everything that is unbecoming the character of a spiritual adviser. Strive to lead a pious, discreet and honorable life, thereby gaining the respect and confidence of those who look upon you as an example.

And in all this endeavor earnestly to do your duty through the grace of God, that you may be ready to give account to every one, above all to the Master when He will come to reward each one according to his works. To this end may the God of all grace grant you strength and blessing for the sake of Jesus Christ His Son.

In the presence of God and this congregation I now ask you: Are you willing to assume the duties of a Minister of the Gospel, trusting in the power of God? Then answer: I am willing.

Answer: I am willing.

You may now make a confession of your Christian faith which you intend to teach and proclaim.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ His only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the One Holy Universal Christian Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Vows

The Minister in charge then addresses the Candidate.

May God grant you grace to continue in this faith to the end and to strengthen the brethren.

Furthermore, I ask you: Do you promise to preach the Word of God in purity and sincerity as it is contained in the Old and New Testament and promulgated in the articles of faith adopted by our Evangelical Church, and to apply yourself wholly to the duties of this sacred calling?

Answer: With the help of God, I do so promise.

Finally, I ask you: Do you now promise to prove your ministry with a consistent Christian life and to be an example in faith and virtue for the flock that is committed to your charge?

Answer: I do, God being my helper.

The Candidate shall then kneel, and the Minister in charge and his Assistants shall solemnly ordain him to the sacred office of the Christian ministry with laying on of hands, according to the apostolic example, saying:

May the almighty God help you and strengthen you to keep your vows. And now, as Ministers of the Evangelical Church, and by authority vested in us by the German Evangelical Synod of North America we do ordain, consecrate, and appoint you to the sacred office of a Minister of the Gospel, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

May the Lord bless you that your work in His vineyard may bring forth fruit unto everlasting life.

Assistants

1. Suffer hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.
2. Hold fast that which thou hast, that no one take thy crown.
3. Do the work of an evangelist, fulfill thy ministry.
4. Fear not, only believe.
5. Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee the crown of life.

Then the newly ordained Minister shall arise and the Minister in charge shall say:

In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and by the authority which He has given to His Church, I do hereby declare you to be ordained to the office of the Christian ministry. Preach the Word, administer the Sacraments and serve the Lord wherever He may send you. Amen.

Then the Minister in charge and his Assistants shall take the newly ordained by the right hand, saying:

We give you the right hand of fellowship and invite you to take part in this ministry with us.

Prayer

MOST MERCIFUL Father in Heaven, we beseech Thee to bless this Thy servant richly with heavenly gifts, that he may be clothed with righteousness and speak Thy Word with power. We pray Thee, endue all called into the Christian ministry with the Holy Spirit, that we might un-

derstand Thy Word clearly, confess Thy Name valiantly, and be kept in all temptations and trials, thus to glorify Thy Name, do Thy will and lead many unto righteousness. Graciously vouchsafe unto Thy kingdom the pastors and teachers necessary for the work. The harvest is plenteous, but the laborers are few. Open the hearts of many to see the need of a sin-sick world, and make them willing to proclaim Thy salvation. Guard Thy people against all adversaries, who blaspheme Thy holy Name, seek to destroy Thy kingdom and oppose Thy will. Grant unto Thy Church the victory in all parts of the world. May all who love Thee know: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. This we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ, who with Thee, and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns in all eternity. Amen.

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

Benediction

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee; The Lord make His face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give the peace. Amen.

PART EIGHT

The Order for the Consecration of Deaconesses

✠

Opening Sentence

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Presentation of Sisters

After an address in which the privileges and obligations of a Deaconess are set forth, and the Sisters are introduced, they shall rise and the Minister shall address them.

Dear Sisters:

With the help of God you have completed the period of probation required by the Rules and Regulations of our Evangelical Deaconess Home, and have shown yourselves willing and prepared to serve the Lord as Deaconesses, ministering in His Name to a suffering, sorrowing and sin-laden world. You now present yourselves to be consecrated to this work. We therefore remind you of the glorious promises and the holy duties of the Christian diaconate as set forth in the Word of God.

Responsive Reading

MINISTER. The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many. (Mt. 20: 28)

CONGREGATION. Whosoever would become great among you shall be your minister; and whosoever would be first among you shall be your servant. (Mt. 20: 26, 27)

MIN. Now in these days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a murmuring of the Grecian Jews against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.

CONG. And the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not fit that we should forsake the Word of God, and serve tables.

MIN. Look ye out therefore, brethren, from among you seven men of good report, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

CONG. But we will continue stedfastly in prayer, and in the ministry of the Word.

MIN. And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaüs a proselyte of Antioch;

CONG. Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands upon them. (Ac. 6: 1-6)

MIN. I commend unto you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church that is at Cenchreae:

CONG. That ye receive her in the Lord, worthily of the saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever matter she may have need of you: for she herself also hath been a helper of many, and of mine own self. (Ro. 16: 1, 2)

MIN. If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will the Father honor. (Jn. 12: 26)

CONG. He that loseth his life for my sake shall find it. And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only, in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you he shall in no wise lose his reward. (Mt. 10: 39, 42)

MIN. And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of these my brethren, even these least, ye did it unto me. (Mt. 25: 40)

The Deaconess Vow

Dear Sisters:

You have had several years experience in the ministry of a Deaconess, and have learned to know not only the joy and honor of such service, but have also had opportunity to realize its solemn responsibility as expressed in the words: Obedience, Willingness, and Faithfulness. You have, no doubt, in the sanctuary of your heart consecrated yourselves to this service and work. You will now confirm this vow in the presence of God and this congregation. I therefore ask you:

Will you, as servants of Jesus Christ, earnestly endeavor in obedience, willingness and faithfulness to perform the duties which the Word of God and the Regulations of our Evangelical Motherhouse prescribe for the calling of Deaconesses?

Will you especially consecrate yourselves to the Lord with self-denial, humility and love, to serve Him by ministering to the needy and helpless, endeavoring in all things to do what is well-pleasing unto Him?

Then answer: I will, with the help of God.

Answer: I will, with the help of God.

The Deaconesses shall then kneel, and the Minister shall offer the following prayer.

Prayer of Consecration

ETERNAL GOD, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Creator of man and woman, who didst fill with Thy Spirit Miriam and Deborah and Hannah and Huldah, who didst in the tabernacle of the testimony and in the temple ordain women to be keepers of Thy holy gates, who also didst not disdain that Thine only begotten Son should be born of a woman; do Thou also look down upon these Thy servants who now have been set apart to the ministry of Deaconesses; grant them the gift of Thy Holy Spirit, and

cleanse them from all defilement of the flesh and spirit, that they may worthily discharge the work committed unto them to Thine honor, and to the praise of Jesus Christ, to whom with Thee, and the Holy Spirit be glory and adoration for ever and ever. Amen.

The Consecration

The Minister shall then lay his hand upon the head of each Sister, and say:

May the blessing of the Triune God rest upon you always, and strengthen you, that as true servants of the Lord, you may in obedience, willingness, and faithfulness accomplish that which is well-pleasing unto Him in all your ways.

May the love of the Father guide you, the grace of the Son comfort you, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit strengthen you, that you may bring forth fruits of righteousness unto eternal life. Amen.

Reception into the Diaconate

The Sisters rise and remain standing, and the Minister calling each by name shall read the Scripture passage selected by each as her motto. Then he shall say, taking each by the hand:

In the name of our Evangelical Deaconess Home I admit you to all the constitutional privileges of our Sisterhood, and extend to you a most cordial welcome.

May the God of peace, who brought again from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep with the blood of an eternal covenant, even our Lord Jesus Christ, make you perfect in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is well-pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

PART NINE

Installation and Reception

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I

The Order for the Installation of a Minister

NOTE. The Installation occurs at a service agreed upon by the Congregation, the Pastor and the District President, or his Representative, the latter having charge of the service. After the sermon the following order is observed.

Opening Sentence

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer

ALMIGHTY GOD, our heavenly Father, we heartily thank Thee for the Christian Church, founded by our Saviour Jesus Christ and preserved for us by the ministry of Thy Holy Spirit. We praise Thee, that by Thy grace the counsel of Thine eternal love has been continuously revealed unto a sinful world. We pray Thee, that by Thy mercy repentance and forgiveness of sins may be ever proclaimed to us.

We humbly beseech Thee, O God, to continue the faithful preaching of Thy Word and the office of the Christian ministry. Grant, that Thy Word may dwell richly in many hearts and lives, and that Thy ministers may win many unto salvation. Especially do we pray Thee for Thy servant who is to become the pastor of this congregation. Graciously endue him with wisdom and love, with truth and

justice, with strength and endurance for his ministry among this people. Be Thou pleased to hear and accept his vows and to answer his supplications. Mercifully behold this congregation and cause all hearts to be opened to their new shepherd, to accept his message, to heed his injunctions and to be led by him into the path of life. We pray Thee, O Lord, bless this service unto all who participate, and to the advancement of Thy kingdom. Amen.

Address

Setting forth the duties and responsibilities of both the Pastor-elect and the Congregation.

The Charge to the Minister

While the Congregation stands, the Pastor-elect presents himself at the altar and is addressed as follows:

Beloved Co-laborer in the vineyard of the Master: The great Shepherd and Bishop of souls has called you to the office of the Christian ministry and to become the pastor of this congregation. I therefore ask you in the presence of the omniscient God and this congregation:

Are you ready and willing to take upon yourself the holy office of the ministry in this congregation and to conscientiously discharge its duties in accordance with the Word of God? Then answer: I am, God being my helper.

Answer: I am, God being my helper.

Do you promise, that you will endeavor faithfully to proclaim to all, both old and young, the counsel of God unto salvation according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to lead an exemplary life of faith and love and godliness, and so much as in you lieth to avoid everything that might hinder the blessings of your office and impair the fruit of your work? Do you further promise to uphold the Constitution and By-Laws of this congregation to the best of your ability? Then answer: I do so promise, with the help of God.

Answer: I do so promise, with the help of God.

The Pastor-elect then kneels while the Minister in charge continues, with laying on of hands, saying:

The Installation

Authorized by the President of the ..... District of the German Evangelical Synod of North America, I now install you as minister and pastor of this congregation, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. The Lord, who hath called you to His service, enlighten, strengthen and guide you through His Holy Spirit, that you may serve this congregation as a faithful laborer bringing forth fruit unto life eternal. The God of peace, who brought again from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep with the blood of an eternal covenant, even our Lord Jesus, make you perfect in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is well-pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever.

Amen.

Thereupon the Pastor-elect rises, and the Minister in charge addresses the Congregation as follows:

The Charge to the Congregation

Dear Members of this congregation and Joint-heirs of the promises of God in Christ Jesus: We solemnly commend to you the pastor whom you have chosen, and admonish you to be mindful of the Word of our God which says: Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit to them: for they watch in behalf of your souls, as they that shall give account; that they may do this with joy, and not with grief: for this were unprofitable for you. If ye do this, the God of peace will be with you.

Furthermore, I charge you to be earnest and sincere in the fulfillment of the obligations which you assumed when you called your pastor, namely: to recognize in the man you have called a Minister of the Gospel; to submit to his instruction, guidance and discipline; to support him in his ministry by willing service as directed by the Gospel, and to

shield him against temporal wants, for the Lord Jesus has said: The laborer is worthy of his hire.

If you, the Officers and Members of this congregation, are ready and willing thus to agree and covenant, as in the presence of God, so signify by saying: We do.

Answer: We do.

Upon this your assurance and pledge, we beseech the Lord of the Church, Jesus Christ, who is both the Corner Stone and the Head of the Church, to bless this relation which has now been established in His Name between pastor and congregation. Amen.

Prayer

O GOD, Thou art our Creator, Preserver and Lord! Blessed be Thy Name for the Church of Jesus Christ and the ministry of reconciliation. Most joyfully do we worship Thee this day with praise for Thy goodness and with the petition for Thy continued lovingkindness. We pray Thee, bless this congregation and its pastor. Seal Thou the covenant into which they have just entered. Fill Thy servant with the gifts of Thy Holy Spirit, enrich his ministry with Thy love and peace, strengthen his messages with Thy truth and power, give him the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness, and preserve his life in purity to be an example unto many. Grant, Lord Jesus, that he may be truly Thine ambassador to proclaim Thy Gospel of redemption. Make him a good shepherd of the flock: to serve Thee only, to convert sinners unto Thee, and to build up Thy people in holiness and salvation.

O Lord, our God, who dost sanctify the faithful, we pray Thee, visit this congregation with Thy love and favor. Prepare the hearts of old and young to receive and obey Thy Word. Enlighten the minds of all with the light of Thy Gospel. Quicken all members of this congregation to faithful service, willing sacrifice and fervent zeal in all the af-

fairs of Thy kingdom. Richly bless the various organizations of this church and the gifts and prayers of all its members. Grant, that here may dwell and labor a holy people abounding in good works and united in Thy Spirit by the bonds of peace.

Lord Jesus, we pray Thee, bless Thy Church everywhere. Especially do we seek Thy favor for our German Evangelical Synod and our ..... District. Grant unto all Thy followers the joy and strength of the Holy Spirit, Thy grace and blessing for all tasks. Complete Thy kingdom on earth and bring all to the Church triumphant.

Amen.

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

NOTE. Following the above prayer the newly-installed Pastor may deliver his installation sermon. Otherwise the service should be ended and an opportunity given to all to shake hands with their new Pastor.

Benediction (Pronounced by the newly installed Pastor.)

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make His face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

Amen.

II

The Order for the Installation of the Church Council

NOTE. When the Officers of a Congregation have been elected, their names shall be publicly announced, and a time set for their Installation.

At an appointed time during the service the newly elected Officers, their names having been announced, shall come forward. The Minister shall address them as follows:

Address

Dear Brethren:

The Apostle Paul exhorteth us: Let all things be done decently and in order. In accordance with this precept the primitive Church appointed elders and deacons to assist the apostles in order to relieve them from the temporal affairs of the Church. Following this custom the Church of the present day elects officers to serve in this capacity, so as to enable the pastor to give himself more fully to the ministry of the Word.

Therefore, dear Brethren, you have been elected by this congregation as members of the Church Council. As servants of Christ and officers in His Church, it will be your duty to lead an exemplary life; to see that the purity of the Gospel in preaching and practice be maintained; that proper discipline be exercised; that peace and harmony among the members be cultivated; that the temporal affairs of the congregation be properly administered, and that all possible assistance be rendered to the upbuilding of the kingdom of God at home and abroad.

In order to assure the congregation of your willingness to serve as members of the Church Council, I ask you in the presence of God and this assembly:

Do you accept the office to which you have been elected, and will you faithfully discharge the duties thereof as set

forth in the Word of God and in the Constitution and By-Laws of this congregation? If so, make it known by saying: I do.

Answer: I do.

Then the Minister, giving his hand to each of the Officers, shall say:

May the God of all grace, who hath called you to the service of His Church, plentifully endow you with His gifts and strengthen you that you may faithfully discharge your duties to the glory of His Name and to the edification of this congregation.

And now, dear Brethren, be ye stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not vain in the Lord. Amen.

And to you, beloved Brethren, who are now retiring from office, we tender the hearty thanks of this congregation for whatever faithfulness and zeal you have manifested in its service. May the Lord of the Church bless and reward you.

Then the Minister shall say to the Congregation:

And now, ~~dearly beloved~~ Members of this congregation, I commend to you our brethren as servants of the Lord and officers of our church, and charge you to bear in mind the words of the Apostle Paul: Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor. Encourage them by your co-operation in everything that they may undertake for the good of the congregation, and remember them in your prayers, that their work among you may be abundantly blessed.

Prayer

ALMIGHTY GOD, our heavenly Father! Our hearts are filled with holy joy as we contemplate Thy Church on earth and remember that Thou hast established it among

us. Especially do we thank Thee that Thou dost permit sinful man to serve Thee in Thy Church, and that Thou hast made these our brethren willing to accept special service. Enlighten their minds with Thy wisdom. Guide them in their deliberations upon the affairs of Thy Church. Fill them with faith and hope. Make them an example unto Thy people. Encourage them for all tasks, and bless them that they may become a blessing unto others.

Lord Jesus, we pray Thee, look with favor upon our congregation, its services and efforts, its homes and members. Grant Thy Holy Spirit to direct, protect and enlarge Thy work among us. May the new year of work find us ever ready to labor and to serve. But not only unto us, O Lord, but unto Thy Church universal vouchsafe peace, joy and victory for ever. Amen.

Benediction

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make His face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

Amen.

III

The Order for the Installation of Sunday School Officers and Teachers

(Including Home Department Workers)

Opening Sentence and Address

In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Dear Christian Friends:

When the Lord commanded the Israelites to teach their children the significance of holy things, He purposed to educate succeeding generations to His holy service. Likewise our Lord Jesus Christ, when He enjoined His disciples to go and preach the Gospel and to teach all nations, desired to provide the means whereby all persons might come to the knowledge of God and salvation.

These instructions have been followed through the past centuries by various methods, until we have come to recognize the importance of the Sunday school in its relation to both the Church and the kingdom of God at large. Indeed, the Sunday school is one of the teaching agencies of the Church, and its mission is to instruct in the salient truths of God's Word; it is her handmaid in the moulding of Christian character; it is her guide toward actual Christian service, thereby becoming a most potent factor toward the winning of many souls to Christ.

This at once represents the policy and program of the Sunday school of to-day, and contains both your duties and responsibilities as well as your privileges and opportunities as the Officers and Teachers (and Home Department Workers) of the Sunday school of this congregation. To this office you have been called, which is in itself a holy Christian service, ranking second only to that of the pastor in the spiritual development of the parish.

In accepting your office, be it as a leader or teacher, or merely to discharge routine duties, you assume a task which demands your noblest effort, your faith and prayer, and your Christian walk in holiness and virtue.

Rest not content with your own knowledge and power. Jesus said, Without me ye can do nothing. Be not discouraged by either the magnitude of the program or any apparent difficulties, for Jesus also said, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world; while the apostle spoke from experience when he wrote, I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me.

Therefore, let the life of Jesus Christ, the Master Teacher, be your example; the heroism of the disciples and apostles your inspiration, and this prophecy of the Old Testament your hope of reward, And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

On behalf of the Sunday school and congregation assembled, and in the presence of Almighty God, who knoweth the secrets of our hearts and giveth power to the faint, I charge you, the duly elected Officers of this school and its departments, ever to remember the duties and obligations of your office, your responsibility to the school, the church, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and ask you: Do you promise by His help and the guidance of His Holy Spirit to discharge to the best of your knowledge and ability that service for which you have been selected? Then answer: Yes, with the help of the Lord.

Answer: Yes, with the help of the Lord.

Then I charge you, the Teachers of this Sunday school, ever to remember your privilege and duty to teach God's Word; to lead your scholars to our Saviour and Redeemer; to instruct by your life as well as by your word; and to be co-laborers with these officers, with the pastor of this con-

gregation, and with your Lord; and I ask you: Do you promise by His power and the quickening of His Holy Spirit to be faithful to the charge entrusted to you? Then answer: Yes, with the help of the Lord.

Answer: Yes, with the help of the Lord.

(When so desired and arranged.)

Likewise, I charge you, the Officers and Visitors of the Home Department of this Sunday school, be mindful of your mission to serve your Master in the homes of the members of this department by your regular visits, your word of encouragement and instruction, of cheer and sympathy, of counsel and comfort, and by your life and faith to broaden and deepen the channel of the Saviour's love to all, and I ask you: Are you willing to do this, as He shall give you power, and bless your efforts? Then answer: Yes, with the help of the Lord.

Answer: Yes, with the help of the Lord.

Therefore, my friends, I admonish you upon this your solemn consecration to service, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that no service for Him will be without His assistance and reward.

Prayer

DEAR LORD and Saviour, Jesus Christ! Thou hast heard the pledge of these Thy servants who are to be laborers in Thy vineyard. We beseech Thee, vouchsafe unto each and every one Thy spirit of service and ministry, Thy gift of strength and knowledge, Thy power of redeeming love and bounteous mercy, in order that Thy kingdom may be established among us, many souls won to Thee, and the voice of all be raised in joyful praise to Thee.

Graciously bless our Sunday school in all its members, departments and activities, and grant to all schools teaching Thy Word the grace of sincere testimony.

We also plead for this congregation and church, that through the preaching and teaching of Thy Word and the ardent service of many this house shall be Thy tabernacle among men where loyal hearts serve only Thee.

And for Thy kingdom at large, O Lord, we pray that victory which shall at last bring all the world to Thy feet and all tongues to confess Thee: King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. Amen.

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

Benediction

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus. Amen.

IV

The Order for the Installation of the Officers of Societies in the Congregation

Such as Ladies' Aid, Brotherhood and Young People's Societies

NOTE. This public Installation may be held in connection with the regular meeting of the Society, or may take place in one of the services of the Church. The Pastor always officiates at this service.

Address

Dear Friends:

You have come to assume publicly the office to which you have been elected by our ..... Society. The members of this society have expressed their confidence in you and your ability to perform the duties of the office to which you have been chosen. If you enter upon these in the spirit of service, the performance of the duties incumbent on you will not prove a burden, but a source of joy and blessing. And even if you may have misgivings and doubts as to your ability to perform these duties, be assured that He, who is wisdom and truth, will fill you with grace and knowledge, that your earnest endeavor will be crowned with success. Remember the words of our Lord: Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you; for it is God who worketh in you both to will and to work. Therefore, pour out your heart to Him in constant prayer, seeking His guidance and wisdom.

We are convinced of your willingness and ability to assume the duties of your respective offices, but it remains for you to express publicly your determination to perform these duties according to the best of your ability. Therefore, I ask you in the presence of God and ~~this congregation~~ (this society): Do you promise, trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength and guidance, that you will faithfully

and conscientiously perform the duties of the office to which you have been elected? Then answer: I do.

Answer: I do.

Upon this assurance, I install you as the Officers of this ..... In the name of this society I extend to you the right hand in token of the hearty co-operation and support which this society hereby pledges you in all things undertaken for its welfare. May He, who has called you into His glorious service, endow you with wisdom and strength to do His work.

But I remind you, the Members of this society, that the successful performance of the duties of your officers will depend not only on their willingness or ability, but also on your interest and support. Therefore, I admonish you to follow willingly the guidance of these your officers, to support them in every possible way, to remember them in your prayers to Almighty God, that by His grace you and these newly installed officers may accomplish great things for the upbuilding of your society, the welfare of this congregation and the progress of the kingdom of God.

Prayer

HEAVENLY FATHER, we come to Thee at this time with joyful hearts, praising Thy goodness and extolling Thy works among the children of men. We thank Thee for the Church and the message of salvation, for the many agencies and manifold activities within the Church, and especially for this ..... Society, which has been ~~so richly~~ blessed by Thee.

We are deeply grateful, our Father in heaven, that Thou hast called us into the Church and hast given us tasks to perform. Help us to realize that Thou art pleased to entrust to our weak efforts the great plans and duties of Thy kingdom on earth. We pray Thee, forgive us our errors and shortcomings. Grant, that these officers now entering

upon their duties may obtain Thy favor, be strengthened by Thy Spirit and be successful in the discharge of their duties. Bless them with Thy love, comfort and power. Graciously reward and bless those who have just relinquished their office. Vouchsafe unto this society the strength to complete its tasks, and unto all members willing hearts and hands.

Lord Jesus, we pray Thee, cause us to remember Thine example of faithful service, of willing sacrifice and humble spirit. Make us to see the needs of Thy kingdom, the possibilities of our co-operation with Thee and the reward of faithful labor. We ask no glory for ourselves. Unto Thee belongeth all honor and glory for ever. Amen.

Benediction

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

V

Order for the Reception of New Members into the Church

NOTE. The Candidates appearing at the altar, the Minister shall read their names, and address them as follows:

Address

Beloved in the Lord:

Your application for membership in ..... Church has been duly considered and favorably acted upon. You are now to be received publicly as members, and on behalf of this congregation I heartily welcome you into the fellowship of this church.

The privileges and blessings of membership in an Evangelical church are many and precious. Every Evangelical congregation is a part of the One Holy Universal Christian Church, which Christ our Lord and Saviour established with His blood, and which the Holy Spirit continues to gather, enlighten and preserve. Our Church, therefore, offers to its members the divine means for salvation, spiritual growth and eternal perfection. Such means are the Word of God and the holy Sacraments, which you should use diligently and devoutly, so that you may live and die a Christian.

The membership in an Evangelical church, however, includes not only blessed privileges, but sacred duties as well. For as the body is one and has many members, and each member is designed to serve the other; so the members of a church are many, but each should serve the other, and all together serve the one Church, of which Christ is the head. Let each, therefore, render the gifts both temporal and spiritual, with which God hath blessed him, to his own and his neighbor's salvation, and thus to the glory of God.

Let us remember that when one member suffereth, all the members suffer with it; and when one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

It is furthermore your duty to give according to your means to the financial support of this church and God's work throughout His kingdom, and thus to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Having thus briefly referred to the privileges and duties of members of an Evangelical church, I now ask you in the presence of God and this congregation: Do you promise that you will endeavor with the help of God, to lead a truly Christian life; that you will submit to the rules and regulations of this congregation as set forth in its Constitution and By-Laws, and that you will promote the welfare of this church according to your ability? Then answer: I do.

Answer: I do.

The Minister then extends his right hand to each, saying:

In the name of ..... Church I extend to you the right hand of Christian fellowship and welcome you into its membership. At the same time I invite you to partake of all its privileges and blessings, trusting that, as you are numbered with God's people here, you will be found among His saints in glory everlasting.

Benediction

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you for ever. Amen.

VI

Order for Receiving Communicants from other Churches

NOTE. Persons to be received from other Churches, appearing at the altar and their names being read, may be addressed as follows:

Address

Dearly Beloved:

You are here, not to declare for the first time your faith in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, but to assure us of your desire to transfer publicly your membership to this congregation.

I, therefore, ask you in the presence of God and this assembly: Do you promise that you will, with the help of God, submit to the rules and regulations of this congregation as set forth in its Constitution and By-Laws, and that you will promote the welfare of this church according to your ability, and be co-laborers together with us in the extension of Christ's kingdom? Then answer: I do.

Answer: I do.

The Minister then extends his right hand to each, saying:

I, therefore, publicly declare you members of .... Church, and giving you the right hand of Christian fellowship, bid you welcome to all its privileges and blessings, trusting that, as you are numbered with God's people here, you will be found among His saints in glory everlasting.

Benediction

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you for ever. Amen.

VII

Order for Admission of Members on Confession of Faith

NOTE. If Persons of mature years, who have been baptized but not confirmed, wish to be admitted into the Church, the following form of admission may be used. But before they are admitted into the Church the Minister must assure himself that they have a clear understanding of the Gospel truths, and above all, believe in Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord.

These may be admitted without special preparation and instruction, trusting that their own personal experience, which has led them to this confession of faith, will lead them into a deeper knowledge of God and His Word.

At the appointed service the Minister will call those to be received forward, and then shall say:

Address

Dearly Beloved:

The Scriptures teach us, that the Church is the household of God, of which Jesus Christ is the head, and the individual Christians are the members. Admission into the household of God is given only to such, as have been born anew of the water and the Spirit; who have renounced all sin, and long after holiness of life and conduct. Into this holy fellowship these persons are seeking admission.

Of the sincerity of their purpose to lead a Christian life we have so far become satisfied as to accord them our confidence and fellowship as Christian believers, entitling them to labor with us in the Church of Jesus Christ, and to participate in all the spiritual privileges of the House of God. I commend these persons to your love and care, trusting that the fellowship with us will strengthen them in their faith, and lead them into a deeper knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Addressing the Applicants the Minister shall say:

Dearly Beloved: We rejoice that the grace of God has been vouchsafed unto you, in that He has called you to be His followers. You are aware of the privileges and solemn duties of church membership, and before you are admitted, it is but proper that you do publicly confess your faith and declare your purpose. You will now repeat with me the Apostles' Creed as your confession of faith.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ His only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the One Holy Universal Christian Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Obligation

I, therefore, ask you:

Do you accept Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord, believing that you can have eternal life only through faith in His Name?

Do you believe in the doctrines and teachings of the Evangelical Church?

Do you promise that you will, with the help of God, submit to the rules and regulations of this congregation as set forth in its Constitution and By-Laws, and that you will promote the welfare of this church according to your ability? Then answer: I do.

Answer: I do.

The Minister then gives his right hand to each, saying:

I, therefore, publicly declare you members of . . . . . Church, and giving you the right hand of Christian fellowship, bid you welcome to all its privileges and blessings, trusting that, as you are numbered with God's people here, you will be found among His saints in glory everlasting.

Benediction

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you for ever. Amen.

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PART TEN

Synodical Meetings

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I

Prayers for the Opening Service at District and General Conferences

NOTE. It is customary to begin all Conferences with a special service, at the close of which the Lord's Supper is celebrated. The following prayers may be used at this service.

A Prayer for the Beginning of the Service

ETERNAL GOD, our Creator, and through Jesus Christ our Father in heaven! We adore Thee and praise Thy Name, O Most High. Graciously behold us as we gather in holy convocation to commune with Thee and to confer upon the work Thou hast given us to do. Vouchsafe unto all present: pastors, delegates, and visitors, Thy blessing, O God.

With holy joy we approach Thee, O Christ our Lord, because of the Church which Thou hast established on earth, and of which Thou hast made us members. Especially do we rejoice in our Evangelical Church, which Thou hast established and blessed, together with its many agencies and institutions. To Thee belongeth all praise and honor for the achievements in the past. Thy right hand hath gotten Thee the victory.

We pray Thee, Lord Jesus, accept our humble and hearty thanks for permitting us to assemble at this time to deliberate upon the affairs of Thy kingdom. Help us to remember constantly that this work is not our own, but

Thine. Enable us to become faithful servants in Thy cause, loyal husbandmen in Thy vineyard, and righteous stewards of Thy spiritual gifts.

We invoke Thy blessing, O Saviour, upon this conference: its leaders and members, its deliberations and acts. Vouchsafe to us Thy Spirit of wisdom for the matters to be considered, and Thy grace and power for the work to be done. Make us prayerful, earnest and just, that our efforts may result in the upbuilding of Thy kingdom throughout the Church, in every congregation and in the souls of all men.

Mercifully hear us, Lord Jesus, as we pray for this assembly. Enter our midst and grant us Thy peace. Consecrate us anew to Thee. Increase our faith. Strengthen our hope. Revive our spirits. Bless those who shall break the bread of life to us. Help us to be doers of Thy Word and not hearers only. Graciously prepare us to partake of Thy holy Supper. Make us indeed a body of brothers who shall endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

For Thine, O Lord and God, is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

✠

A Prayer for the Closing of the Service

ALMIGHTY GOD! We render unto Thee honor and glory, thanksgiving and praise for Thy glorious Gospel, the good news of Thy gift of the Saviour, who is able to save unto the uttermost.

We pray Thee, make us mindful of our heritage: the open Bible, the liberty of conscience, the full and free use of the Sacraments as instituted by our Saviour, and the free access to the Father's throne in prayer, through Christ our only Mediator.

Open our eyes to the visions of Thy kingdom and the opportunities before us. Let us not rest satisfied with the attainments of the past, but urge us onward to do Thy will more perfectly, and thus ultimately to gain for Thee the victory.

Graciously pardon our sins, our failures and our shortcomings. Remember in mercy that we are mortal and helpless. Renew in us Thine image and revive in us Thy spirit.

Add to our faith the grace of humility and perseverance, the charm of fraternity and loyalty. Make us Thy servants and cause us to be Thy witnesses everywhere. Help us to be a power for good in our chosen fields of labor.

Let Thy love and peace dwell in this congregation, where homes and hearts are opened for our entertainment. May their sacrifices of labor and love be richly rewarded unto them. Grant, that we may be a blessing to those with whom we sojourn during this conference. And then, when the work of this conference is ended, may we return joyfully to our tasks, determined to complete Thy work. And when this is done, receive us unto Thyself and into the heavenly kingdom of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, in whose Name we also pray:

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

Benediction

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make His face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

Amen.

II

The Order for the Installation of the Officers of a District or the General Synod

NOTE. The Installation of the Officers shall occur during the last session of the conference or the closing service. The same is to be conducted by the retiring President or some member of the conference designated by him.

Opening Sentence

Our help is in the Name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Amen. (Psalm 124: 8)

The Address

Beloved Brethren:

You have been elected the Officers of the ..... District of the German Evangelical Synod of North America and are about to enter upon the duties incumbent upon your office.

In governing and directing the affairs of this District (Synod) ever remember that you are the servants of the Lord Jesus. Your duties are prescribed for you in the Constitution and By-Laws of our Synod. Your guide in all matters should be the Word of God, and your strength and comfort the Holy Spirit. Strive then to show yourself worthy of the office and the confidence placed in you.

The Installation

On behalf of the conference I, therefore, ask you before God and this assembly: Do you willingly assume the duties of the office to which you have been elected; do you promise to discharge your duties and obligations to the best of your ability, and to be governed only by the Bible and the Constitution and By-Laws of our German Evangelical Synod of North America, trusting the Lord Jesus for help and strength? If so, then answer: We do.

Answer: We do.

While giving his right hand to those elected, the Officer in charge shall continue:

I hereby declare you to be the Officers of the .... District (German Evangelical Synod of North America), praying that the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the joy and peace of the Holy Spirit may ever abide with you.

May Christ, the Head of the Church, make you faithful in His service, an example to all your brethren and approved workmen in the perfecting of His kingdom. Amen.

Prayer

LORD JESUS, mercifully behold these Thy servants entering upon special service for Thee. Endue them with Thy wisdom and comfort, and fill them with love and faith. Make them just, prudent, gentle and faithful in the discharge of their duties. Graciously grant unto them Thy blessing for all their labors, and finally the heavenly reward for the faithful: the crown of everlasting life. Amen.

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III

Reception of Pastors and Congregations into Membership

✠

A. Order for the Reception of Pastors into Membership with the Synod at the District Conference

NOTE. The application of an ordained Minister for membership with the Synod is addressed to the District President who causes the customary examination to be conducted. Upon recommendation of the examining board the application is presented to the ministerial session held during the district conference and, if accepted, is recommended to the District for final action. The public reception into membership occurs during the conference at the discretion of the District President, who assumes charge.

Opening Sentence

In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Address

Dear Brother: Your desire to affiliate with the German Evangelical Synod of North America has received our careful attention. According to custom, you were examined, your application was considered in the ministerial session, and you were accepted into membership with the German Evangelical Synod of North America by the action of the ..... District.

The requirements and privileges of a minister of the German Evangelical Synod of North America are known to you, hence we may assume that you are prepared to answer publicly the following:

1. Is it your purpose, as an ordained minister of the Gospel, to let your membership with our Synod be a strengthening of your holy office? Then answer: I do.

Answer: I do.

2. Fully understanding your obligations and privileges as a member of this body, are you willing, as a servant of Christ, to discharge these to the best of your ability? Then answer: I am.

Answer: I am.

The President then welcomes the Candidate by taking his right hand, saying:

My Brother: I welcome you as a member of the German Evangelical Synod of North America and our brother in the Lord. Co-operate with us in our work, sharing our duties and responsibilities. May the Lord Jesus, the Head of the Church, bless you richly as you labor with us. Amen.

Prayer

LORD JESUS CHRIST! We ask Thee to look in mercy and with grace upon this union. Make this servant of Thine a valiant soldier of the cross, a faithful shepherd of Thy fold, a wise counsellor in our deliberations and a loyal member of our Church. Bless our German Evangelical Synod of North America: its districts, officers and boards, its pastors, congregations and members. Make it indeed Thy Church, even as we ask that Thou wouldst ever lead all Thy people and all denominations to that victory which shall be Thine in eternity. Amen.

NOTE. Thereupon the Applicant will sign the Constitution and By-Laws of the Synod.

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B. Order for the Reception of Congregations into Membership with the Synod at the District Conference

Upon the application of a Congregation for admission into the Synod, the District President appoints a committee to examine the affairs of same, especially its constitution, doctrine and practice. If these conform to the Constitution and By-Laws of the German Evangelical Synod of North America, the application is recommended to the District for final action. Thereupon the Representative of the Congregation acts for the same during the following public reception at one of the sessions of the conference, as directed by the District President, who assumes charge.

Opening Sentence

Our help is in the Name of Jehovah, who made heaven and earth. Amen. (Psalm 124: 8)

Address

My dear Friend: You have come to represent .... Congregation at this conference of the .... District of the German Evangelical Synod of North America and to act for the same at its admission into membership with us. We are pleased to inform you that our ..... District has acted favorably upon the application of your church, which has complied with the requirements of the Synod relative to a member of our Synod, and exhort the same to perform its duties and enjoy the privileges herewith conferred.

In addition we ask you to advise your congregation that in the near future a service will be arranged at which the entire membership can ratify your action to-day.

Prayer

LORD JESUS CHRIST! As Thou didst win men and make them the living stones of Thy kingdom, and as Thine apostles established churches and made them the home of the souls won to Thee, so we pray that Thou wouldst graciously aid this congregation which has come to be a co-

laborer and joint-heir of Christ with us. Make its ministry as the fountain of life, and its service in Thy kingdom as the sowing of a rich harvest. Bless Thy servant as he now represents his congregation, and with him all the members of his home church. Vouchsafe unto our denomination Thy continued blessing and unto Thy Church everywhere Thy Spirit's guidance and peace. Amen.

NOTE. Thereupon the Representative signs the Constitution and By-Laws of the Synod on behalf of his Congregation.

IV

The Order for the Service of Reception of a Congregation into the Synod

NOTE. The reception of a Congregation into the Synod occurs at a service conducted by the President of the District or his representative. At this service the sermon should be appropriate to the occasion. The Pastor and the members of the Church Council, as the official representatives of the Congregation, should be seated before the altar.

Opening Sentence

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. (I Co. 1: 3)

Address

Christian Friends:

This apostolic salutation voices the greetings of the ..... District and our German Evangelical Synod of North America of which you have desired to become a member. May grace and peace be yours.

Upon your application for membership with our Evangelical Church the Constitution and By-Laws of your congregation were examined and approved, and favorable action taken by the ..... District. At the last conference of the same your representative appeared and officially signed the Constitution of the Synod for you, and was pledged according to our custom. To-day you are to ratify publicly these actions of your congregation and representative and to officially assume your place among the members of our Synod.

In order that you may do so intelligently, let us recall the articles to which your representative has subscribed. These are taken from the Constitution of the German Evangelical Synod of North America, and are as follows:

The German Evangelical Synod of North America, as a part of the Evangelical Church, defines the term "Evangelical Church" as denoting that branch of the Christian Church which acknowledges the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament as the Word of God, the sole and infallible guide of faith and life, and accepts the interpretation of the Holy Scriptures as given in the symbolic books of the Lutheran and the Reformed Church, the most important being: The Augsburg Confession, Luther's and the Heidelberg Catechisms, in so far as they agree; but where they disagree the German Evangelical Synod of North America adheres strictly to the passages of Holy Scriptures bearing on the subject, and avails itself of the liberty of conscience prevailing in the Evangelical Church.

(See "Hand-Book" Page 57, Paragraph 141)

The object of the Synod, as stated in Paragraph 3 of the Constitution, is as follows:

The object of the German Evangelical Synod of North America is, in general, the advancement and extension of the kingdom of God; in particular, the establishment and expansion of the Evangelical Church, principally among the people of German descent in the United States of North America.

The means to this end are enumerated in Paragraph 4 of the Constitution, which reads:

The object of the Synod is attained by providing for the faithful and wise administration of the evangelical ministry; the education of evangelical ministers and teachers; the endeavor to bring about real evangelical development of its congregations; the Christian nurture of the rising generation, and the promotion of charitable institutions.

As a member of the Synod your congregation is pledged to the following, as stated in the By-Laws, Paragraphs 19 and 20:

To further the cause of the Synod; to send a delegate to synodical meetings; to comply with instructions; to give, when requested, account of doctrine and conduct; to submit to just discipline; to contribute the obligatory offerings; to support the benevolent work of the Synod, to introduce the synodical books and periodicals, and to refrain from questionable methods in se-

curing money for the church. Likewise you are pledged to have as your pastors only such as are members of the Synod or have been recommended by the Synod.

The privileges accorded to you as a member of the Synod are also contained in the By-Laws, Paragraph 21, and are as follows:

To be represented at synodical meetings by an official delegate having voice and vote, to be elective to office, committees and special work through a representative appointed by the congregation, and to have the right to be supplied with a pastor of the Synod when the pulpit is vacant.

With this your congregation retains its identity and full possession and control of its property, and remains self-governing. Paragraph 23 of the By-Laws states emphatically that the Synod will take action in such local affairs as do not pertain to doctrine and conduct only when an appeal is made by the congregation itself.

Thus you become a member of a larger body of national and world-wide importance. As a part, you represent the whole in this community. May your congregational life, policy and achievement be worthy of your calling as a church of which Jesus Christ is the foundation and the head. Be our brethren in the work of the Church and co-laborers with Christ. Share our heritage, our joys and successes, our sorrows and our tasks. Let us bear one another's burdens. Be zealous with us for the glory of our God and the redemption of mankind.

In order that you may ratify the preceding actions of your congregation and our ..... District, I request the Pastor and Church Council to stand before the altar, while the assembly rises.

The Reception

Brethren in Christ: I ask you, the ..... Congregation, in the presence of God:

Do you accept and ratify your membership with the German Evangelical Synod of North America?

Do you accept the articles of faith and the obligations as set forth to you?

Do you promise to adhere to the rules and regulations of the Synod, seeking to further its aims and to promote the kingdom of God? Then answer: We do.

Answer: We do.

The officiating Clergyman then gives the right hand of fellowship to the Pastor and the members of the Church Council, saying:

In the name of the German Evangelical Synod of North America I do herewith declare ..... Evangelical Church as one of its members, to possess and enjoy all privileges and rights offered by the Synod to its congregations, so long as this congregation remains loyal to the confession and constitution of the Synod.

May the Lord Jesus Christ bless this union to the welfare of this congregation, to the advancement of our Evangelical Church, to the promotion of His kingdom, and to the glory of God. Amen.

Prayer

BLESSED LORD and Saviour, Thou Head of the Church, impart Thy blessing to all the services, ministrations and labors of this congregation. Endue its pastors and its members with Thy Holy Spirit, love and grace. Enrich their faith, minister to the afflicted and sorrowful, and cause Thy mighty works to be seen and Thy Name glorified. In mercy do Thou forgive sins and create pure hearts, clean lips and hands. Graciously accept the gifts of lives and earthly store as they shall be brought to Thy house. Make this house Thy temple and the place where Thy glory dwelleth.

We beseech Thee, O Christ, bless our Evangelical Church, all its congregations and members, its agencies and activities, its institutions and laborers at home and abroad, thus making it a fruitful vineyard.

We pray Thee, O Lord, bless Thy Church everywhere, and as our eternal Prophet, Priest and King enlighten, intercede for and govern Thy Church.

Our Father, who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

PART ELEVEN

Dedicatory Services

✠

I

The Order for the Laying of a Corner Stone

NOTE. This form is primarily intended for the laying of the Corner Stone of a new house of worship, but may also be adapted for a service at the laying of the Corner Stone of a school house, or a Sunday school building, or a parish house, or any other structure connected with a parish.

Opening Sentence

Our help is in the Name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. (Ps. 124: 8; 127: 1)

Hymn

Scripture Lesson

1 Chronicles 29: 10-18; Psalms 84; 87; 96; Acts 4; 12; Ephesians 2: 9-22.

Prayer

ALMIGHTY GOD, exalted above the heavens, yet not disdaining to dwell among those who seek to worship Thee in spirit and truth, we pray Thee, look graciously upon us, as we are engaged in the erection of a house to Thine honor and glory. Thou didst direct the foundation of the holy temple to be laid by Thy people Israel and didst inspire them with joy. Mercifully vouchsafe Thy presence and blessing unto us, that we, too, may be filled with devout joy and thanksgiving, because the foundation of this house of the Lord is to be laid. Graciously direct us, O Lord, in this

our undertaking and prosper the work of our hands, so that we may complete this building to the glory of Thy holy Name. And may this service of prayer and praise, in connection with the laying of this corner stone, be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, our Rock, and our Redeemer. Amen.

Let us now unite in repeating the Apostles' Creed.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ His only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the One Holy Universal Christian Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn

Address

Laying of the Corner Stone

NOTE. After such documents and articles as are to be preserved have been named and placed in the receptacle prepared for them and the stone has been set, the Minister shall strike the stone three times and say:

Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone of sure foundation. Other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

(Is. 28: 16; 1 Co. 3: 11)

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit we do now lay this Corner Stone of ..... Church, to be a house for the worship of Almighty God and a place where His glory and honor dwelleth. Amen.

Following the officiating Minister, the visiting or assisting pastors and members of the building committee may also strike the stone with the hammer repeating one of the following verses of Holy Scripture:

1. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
2. And let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us; and establish Thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish Thou it. (Ps. 90: 17)
3. His foundation is in the holy mountains. Jehovah loveth the gates of Zion. (Ps. 87: 1, 2)
4. This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. (Ps. 118: 24)
5. The stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner. (Ps. 118: 22)
6. God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. (Jn. 4: 24)
7. And whatsoever ye do, in word or in deed, do all in the Name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. (Col. 3: 17)

Then the officiating Minister shall say:

May the building to be erected upon this corner stone be a temple of the living God, where the Gospel will be preached in all purity, the Sacraments administered in true faith, and the Name of our Saviour, our only Redeemer and Mediator, be glorified. To the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit be praise for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer

ALMIGHTY GOD, our Father in Christ Jesus our Lord, we bless Thy holy Name, because we have been permitted to lay the corner stone of this house of worship. We thank Thee that we have thus far experienced Thy divine presence and Thy guiding power. Graciously continue to bless us and keep us. Grant, that the building to be erected on this corner stone may be a house where Thine honor and glory dwelleth. Vouchsafe unto us that we ourselves as living stones may be built into a spiritual temple, whose

abiding corner stone is Jesus Christ, our Saviour and King. So prosper and bless us that the glad tidings of salvation may be proclaimed through us to this community and to all the world. We beseech Thee, that Thou wouldst richly bless all who contribute of their time, and strength, and gifts unto this building. Hold Thy protecting hand over all who labor in erecting it, that none may suffer injury or harm. So guide and lead us all, that at the last we may be found worthy to dwell in Thy temple, not built with hands, eternal, in the heavens, where with all Thy blessed redeemed we shall unite in Thy praise. All this we ask through Jesus our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

Hymn

The offering may be received at this time.

Lord's Prayer

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

Doxology (To be sung by the Audience.)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Benediction

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make His face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. Amen.

II

The Order for the Dedication of a Church

✠

1. Farewell Service

NOTE. The Farewell Service, held at the former place of worship, shall be as follows:

Hymn

Scripture Reading

Address

Prayer

LORD GOD our Father, we praise Thy glorious Name. Thou hast given us Thy holy Word as the light of our life and for the salvation of our souls. Often were we gathered here in this place of worship and did experience in manifold ways Thy blessed presence. Here Thou didst in days gone by speak unto our hearts and souls, and here Thou didst give us the assurance that we are children of Thy grace. Praise and thanksgiving be unto Thee for these manifestations of Thy divine favor. And now, as we depart from this place to go to our new sanctuary, we implore Thee, O gracious Father, to go with us. Lead us by Thy Holy Spirit, that our going out and our coming in may be blessed evermore, through Jesus Christ our Saviour, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

Following the prayer the assembled Congregation proceeds to the new edifice, Ministers and members of the Church Council, who are to carry the Bibles and sacred vessels, taking the lead.

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2. At the Door of the New Church

Scripture Reading

Psalm 122.

I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go unto the house of Jehovah. Our feet are standing within thy gates, O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, that art builded as a city that is compact together; whither the tribes go up, even the tribes of Jehovah, for an ordinance for Israel, to give thanks unto the Name of Jehovah. For there are set thrones for judgment, the thrones of the house of David. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee. Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces. For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee. For the sake of the house of Jehovah our God I will seek thy good.

The Architect will then give the key to the officiating Minister, saying:

By the grace of God we have completed this house. Therefore I present to you, the Minister of this congregation, the key to this building, in order that this house may be dedicated to the service of the Triune God.

The Minister then shall open the doors and invite the people to enter the Church, saying:

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: Give thanks unto Him, and bless His Name. Amen. (Ps. 100: 4)

✠

3. The Dedicatory Service

Opening Sentence

The Lord is in His holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before Him. (Hab. 2: 20)

Hymn

The Prayer of Dedication

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, the God of our fathers, and also our God. We praise Thee, because in Jesus Christ our Lord Thou hast chosen us to be Thy people.

We thank Thee that by His grace we have been enabled to complete this building to the honor of Thy holy Name. Although the heaven of heavens cannot contain Thee, much less temples built with hands, yet Thou dost condescend to abide with us as our God and Father, our Christ and Saviour. Hearken, therefore, unto the prayers of Thy people and hear us.

Then the Minister, raising his right hand towards heaven, shall speak these words of dedication, saying:

Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, to Thee, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, do we consecrate and dedicate this house, that it may be the habitation of Thy Name and the place where Thy glory dwelleth.

Holy, just and merciful God, hear the prayers and supplications of Thy people.

May Thine eyes be open toward this house day and night, even toward the place whereof Thou hast said, that Thou wouldst put Thy Name there. Guard this place, we pray Thee, against danger and destruction; watch over it, lest it be defiled by sin and spiritual corruption. Let this house, dedicated to Thee, be evermore a sanctuary of prayer and blessings. Accept, we beseech Thee, the words of our lips and the meditation of our hearts, when we worship Thee and sing Thy praises here. Pour out Thy Spirit on those that proclaim, and those that hear Thy Word, that it may be proclaimed in purity and power, received with joy and gladness, kept in faith and obedience, that the number of those who experience its saving power may constantly be increased. Grant, that in this sanctuary those who are distressed in body and soul may find true comfort, that those who are weak may find strength, that those who are erring may find the way of righteousness. May this place be a refuge for all who are weary and heavy laden, where they may find rest for their souls.

We beseech Thee, Lord Jesus, bless the children as they are consecrated to Thee in holy Baptism at this altar. Hear

Thou, O Lord, the confession of faith as the young appear before Thee in confirmation to ratify their baptismal covenant. Graciously attend the ceremonies, O Christ, when hearts and hands are united in holy matrimony to plight their troth and to pledge faithfulness until death do them part. Be nigh, O Saviour of the world, when we gather at Thy table to seek forgiveness of sins, life and salvation, and to receive Thy Body and Blood in holy Communion as the nourishment of our new life. Vouchsafe Thy glorious message: I am the resurrection and the life, to all mourners, Thou Resurrected One, when the mortal remains of their loved ones are brought hither, and sorrowing hearts seek Thy comfort and consolation. O Thou, Redeemer of mankind, art our only hope; our trust is in Thee!

O Thou Son of God, who hearest prayer, be nigh unto us, when we come unto Thee, and grant the fulfillment of our prayers.

When we interecede for the poor, the sick, the distressed, and the forsaken, hear our prayer.

When we plead for the peace and welfare of our country and government, that Thy spirit may enlighten and guide the President and all others in authority, then hear our prayer.

When we pray and labor, that Thy kingdom may be revealed in greater power among us, that Thy wisdom and truth may guide us in our schools and instructions, in our homes and families, then hear our prayer.

May Thy peace, O Triune God, be with this house. Bless and keep all who enter here. Make Thy face to shine upon all who pray and sing, who worship and meditate, who minister and serve here. Lift up Thy countenance upon all who assemble in these Thy courts, and grant them the vision of that greater temple above, where Jesus Christ, as King of kings and Lord of lords, reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit in eternity. Amen.

Response

"Jehovah, Jehovah" or "Now thank we all our God."

Scripture Lesson

1 Chronicles 30: 1-20; 1 Kings 8; 2 Chronicles 6; 8; Psalms 24; 84; 87; 100; 132; John 2: 13-22; John 4: 19-26.

Hymn

Sermon

Hymn

Closing Prayer

MOST GLORIOUS GOD, graciously accept through Thy beloved Son our thanksgiving for Thine unspeakable love and goodness. Thou art the Father of mercies, and God of all consolation, compassionate and forgiving. We thank Thee that Thou hast built Thy Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the chief corner stone. We thank Thee that Thou hast committed to Thy ministers the Word of reconciliation. Continue Thy lovingkindness unto us, that we may rejoice and be glad in Thee all our days. Guide us by Thy counsel, and finally receive us into Thy glory, where, with all the blessed host of heaven, we may behold, adore, and joyfully praise Thee, our most glorious Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, for ever and ever. Amen.

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

The Benediction

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make His face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. Amen.

III

The Dedication of a Sunday School Building

NOTE. The Service of Dedication, of which the following is a part, may be arranged as local conditions permit or require. The accompanying Scripture selections may be printed, and read responsively by the Minister and Congregation.

The Act of Dedication

Opening Sentence

O praise Jehovah, all ye nations; laud Him, all ye peoples. For His lovingkindness is great toward us; and the truth of Jehovah endureth for ever. Praise ye Jehovah. Amen.

(Ps. 117: 1, 2)

Introduction

This building, erected by this congregation for its Sunday school, is a worthy effort to make possible the observance of the commands of Almighty God, to teach His Word and to increase His honor. Hear, then, the Words of our God!

Scripture Lesson

When all Israel is come to appear before Jehovah thy God in the place which He shall choose, thou shalt read this law before all Israel in their hearing. Assemble the people, the men and the women and the little ones, and thy sojourner that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear Jehovah your God, and observe to do all the words of this law.

(Dt. 31: 11, 12)

Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord. (Ps. 34: 11)

For He established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children. (Ps. 78: 5)

Buy the truth, and sell it not; yea, wisdom, and instruction, and understanding. (Pr. 23: 23)

Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of Jehovah, to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of Jehovah from Jerusalem. (Is. 2: 3)

Train up a child in the way he should go, and even when he is old he will not depart from it. (Pr. 22: 6)

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and light unto my path. (Ps. 119: 105)

The words of the Lord are pure words; as silver tried in a furnace on the earth, purified seven times. (Ps. 12: 6)

The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. (Ps. 19: 7)

Blessed are they that hear the Word of God, and keep it. (Lk. 11: 28)

These are written, that ye may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God; and that believing ye may have life in His Name. (Jn. 20: 31)

For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that through patience and through comfort of the scriptures we might have hope. (Ro. 15: 4)

But abide thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; and that from a babe thou hast known the sacred writings which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. (2 Ti. 3: 14, 15)

Every scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness: that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work. (2 Ti. 3: 16, 17)

Give diligence to present thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, handling aright the word of truth. (2 Ti. 2: 15)

Thy testimonies are very sure: Holiness becometh Thy house, O Jehovah, for evermore. (Ps. 93: 5)

Minister

These are the words of testimony concerning this Sunday school building. Let us now approach the God of our salvation with pure hearts and clean hands to dedicate it to His service.

Prayer of Dedication

OUR FATHER in Heaven, Author of wisdom, Source of all light! We dedicate this building to Thee as a habitation of Thy glory, and a school wherein Thy Word shall be taught. Set it apart as a house of worship, as a place of learning, and as a refuge to all who enter here. Fill it, we pray Thee, with Thy glory and truth. Grant, that young and old may here receive visions of Thee and come to the knowledge of the saving truth.

We dedicate this building to Thee, O Christ, our Saviour and Teacher, as Thy meeting place with man for instruction and comfort. May all who enter here be endued with Thy knowledge to know Thy will, and may we through the indwelling of Thy Spirit be doers of the Word and not hearers only. Vouchsafe unto those who shall teach in Thy Name such strength and guidance that they may lead many to Thee and to develop their character into the fulness of Thy stature. Graciously make of this building Thine armory of truth, righteousness, holiness and peace.

We dedicate this building to Thee, O Holy Spirit, in order that in it might be worked Thy righteous judgment and chastisement, intelligent understanding and discernment, heartfelt repentance and true faith in Christ Jesus. We pray Thee, abound richly in all services and sessions, and make of this building an entrance unto heaven, where perfect knowledge and truth shall be our portion.

And all praise, and honor, and glory, be to Thee, O Triune God, from the lips of all who shall evermore gather here. Amen.

Then shall follow such services as may be required or desired.

IV

The Order for the Dedication of an Organ

Opening Sentence

Oh come, let us sing unto the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. (Ps. 95: 1)

Hymn (Usually sung without organ accompaniment.)

Scripture Lesson

Psalm 150.

Introductory Remarks

Dearly Beloved:

Divine worship was enhanced by music even in the earliest days of the Children of Israel. Godly men have pronounced music the daughter of heaven. And in order that the services of this house of worship might be enriched and beautified, there has been installed this new organ which we are about to dedicate. Let our thanks ascend unto the Lord for the gift of voice, and song, and music, and this instrument; and let our prayers be made for the songs of faith, praise, trust and hope which shall ascend unto the hill of the Lord.

NOTE. During the Prayer of Dedication the Organist may softly render a suitable selection.

Prayer of Dedication

ALMIGHTY GOD, Thou who art rich in mercy and love, hear us as we raise our songs of thanksgiving, and offer Thee honor, glory and praise. Behold us as we approach Thee in Thy house to worship Thee in meditation, prayer and song. Accept, we beseech Thee, our sacrifices of life and earthly store.

We pray Thee, our God, graciously receive this organ which we now set apart to Thy service and which we now dedicate to Thy glory, O Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Let it be an instrument of Thy praise, to glorify Thy Name and to uplift our souls unto Thee in devout worship.

Grant, that its music shall ever attune our hearts to sing Thy praise, O Most High. Give to its melody the serene power of comfort and encouragement in our sorrows and strife. Make it to peal forth the jubilant notes of victory and urge us on in the battle for the right. Thus let it be to our earthly life a foretaste of the song of the harpers in heaven above.

Bless those who shall minister unto Thee as they preside at this organ. Grant unto them joy and strength, pure heart and noble aim. Bless those whose songs shall be woven into harmonies by the many voices of this instrument. Vouchsafe to all who sing the spirit of joy and service of those who chant the Holy, Holy, Holy before Thy throne.

Help us, O Father, by Thy gracious Spirit, ever to worship Thee with pure hearts, holy lips and a consecrated life. Grant, that all our worship in this Thy house may be to Thy glory and our salvation. Amen.

NOTE. The Congregation may then sing Hymn No. 820 (Evang. Hymnal) or some other appropriate hymn.

The sermon to be delivered on this occasion should refer to the consecration of the Organ and treat of vocal and instrumental music in public worship. The remainder of the service may be arranged as desired.

V

The Order for the Dedication of a Church Tower

Opening Sentence

The Name of Jehovah is a strong tower; the righteous runneth into it, and is safe. I will sing of lovingkindness and justice: unto Thee, O Jehovah, will I sing praises. (Pr. 18: 10; Ps. 101: 1)

Scripture Lesson

It is a good thing to give thanks unto Jehovah, and to sing praises unto Thy Name, O Most High; to show forth Thy lovingkindness in the morning, and Thy faithfulness every night. For Thou, Jehovah, hast made me glad through Thy work: I will triumph in the works of Thy hands. How great are Thy works, O Jehovah! Thy thoughts are very deep. The righteous shall flourish like the palm-tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. They are planted in the house of Jehovah; they shall flourish in the courts of our God. (Ps. 92: 1, 2, 4, 5, 12, 13)

Introductory Remarks

Dear Christian Friends:

We have long entertained the desire to complete our house of worship by the addition of a tower. The Lord our God has heard our prayers, recognized our sacrifices and visibly blessed the work of our hands. Gathered in His Name, let us arise and dedicate this tower to the glory of the Triune God.

Prayer of Dedication

ALMIGHTY GOD, and through Jesus Christ our heavenly Father! Unto Thee we lift our hearts and hands in prayer, praise and thanksgiving. Be pleased, we pray Thee, to accept our humble devotion for all Thy goodness and mercy toward us. Thou hast not dealt with us according to our sins but hast been gracious and forgiving. We praise Thee for Thy love manifested in Christ Jesus, our

Lord; for Thy Word of life and truth preached unto us; for Thy kingdom upon earth into which we are permitted to enter, and for this church which Thou hast made the place of Thine honor and glory.

We pray Thee, hear us as we now dedicate this tower to Thy glory, O Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Make it a memorial unto us of Thy continued favor and help, of Thy blessing upon our labors and of Thy kingdom where all is harmony and perfection. Grant, that its lessons may be an inspiration to many, reminding us that we must look to Thee in all our needs, and that our pilgrimage on earth is destined to end in eternity with Thee. Help us to grow heavenward, aided by every service, every sermon, every song and every prayer. And, at last, when our worship on earth shall cease, receive us unto Thyself, to worship Thee, O Triune God, in eternity. Amen.

NOTE. This service may then be continued as desired, the sermon dealing with the significance of the Church Tower and ecclesiastical architecture.

VI

The Order for the Dedication of a Church Bell

NOTE. The new Bell should not be rung before the dedication. During the Prayer of Dedication the name or inscription may be mentioned after the words "we now dedicate this bell," while at the mention of the names of the persons of the Trinity, and as the Minister raises his right hand, the Bell should be tolled.

Opening Sentence

Praise ye Jehovah from the heavens: praise Him in the heights. Praise ye Him, all His angels: praise ye Him, all His host. Hallelujah! (Ps. 148: 1, 2)

Introductory Remarks

Dearly Beloved:

The Psalmist says: I will compass Thine altar, O Jehovah; that I may make the voice of thanksgiving to be heard, and tell of Thy wondrous works. Jehovah, I love the habitation of Thy house, and the place where Thy glory dwelleth. (Ps. 26: 6-8)

Thus the Psalmist has beautifully expressed our thoughts on this occasion. Our hearts ring with the praise of the Most High as will the bell which by the Lord's help we have been able to place in the tower. May it serve to invite many to the house of God, proclaiming His wondrous love and the gathering of His people. Let us, therefore, solemnly consecrate this bell to the service of the Triune God in prayer.

Prayer of Dedication

FATHER ALL GLORIOUS, we worship Thee and thank Thee, that of Thine infinite compassion Thou hast called us to be Thy children. We render Thee hearty thanks for the call which has come to us by Thy Word and Thy

Holy Spirit, urging us to leave sin and follow after righteousness. And now would we especially praise Thee for permitting us to place a bell in this Thy house whose voice shall call many unto Thy courts and proclaim Thy love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore, with grateful hearts we now dedicate this bell unto Thee, O Triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

O Lord, grant that many may heed the call of the bell and come to Thy house. Let it proclaim salvation throughout the land. Cause its sound to strengthen the weak in faith, to arouse the conscience of the sinful, to cheer the distressed and to guide the wanderer home. Graciously hear us as we pray for Thy forgiveness, for Thy peace and for Thy wisdom. Mercifully bless this congregation and Thy Church universal, O Lord Christ, and be with us as we pray in Thy Name:

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

NOTE. The Bell may be rung during the Lord's Prayer.

Scripture Lesson

Numbers 10: 1-10; Psalms 81: 1-11; 96; 113.

NOTE. This service may then be continued as desired, the sermon dealing with the service which the newly dedicated Bell is to render.

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VII

The Order for the Dedication of a Parsonage

NOTE. This Dedicatory Service, which may be conducted either on the premises in front of the Parsonage or in the building itself, should be preceded by a service in the church, during which an offering for the parsonage fund may be taken, while the address might deal with one of the following subjects: The Christian Home; The Importance of the Parsonage; The Relation of the Parsonage to the Church, etc. Following this service the Congregation will repair to the Parsonage, where the Minister shall conduct the Dedicatory Service. During the Dedicatory Prayer the Minister should raise his right hand as he speaks the names of the persons of the Trinity.

Opening Sentence

As for me and my house, we will serve Jehovah. Amen. (Jos. 24: 15b)

Scripture Lesson

Psalm 121.

Introductory Address

Dear Members and Friends of ..... Church:

We are reminded by the Apostle Paul: Whatsoever ye do, in word or in deed, do all in the Name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. (Col. 3: 17)

We would therefore render thanks unto God who has graciously enabled us to erect this parsonage as the home of the pastor of this congregation and as the dwelling of the ambassador of Christ among this people. And while it will become a place of seclusion, where, tired and worn, the pastor may find rest in the midst of his loved ones, we trust that it may also become for him a place of sweet communion with God, like the prophet's chamber of old, and unto the members of the congregation and others a quiet place where they may speak with their pastor of spiritual things.

Therefore, let us dedicate this parsonage to the service of God, to the spiritual upbuilding of our congregation, and to the advancement of the Christian home and life in our midst.

Prayer of Dedication

FATHER OF MERCIES, we humbly acknowledge Thy sovereignty, Thy power, Thy love and Thy mercy. We realize our unworthiness, yet extol Thy goodness according to which Thou hast granted us life, established the home, founded the state and preserved Thy Church on earth. We rejoice in Thy Gospel and gladly welcome Thy ministers, Lord Jesus, praying that Thou wouldst bless this house which we have erected for Thy servant, the pastor of this congregation. We thank Thee that our labors were crowned with success by Thee, wherefore we now appear before Thee to dedicate this dwelling to Thy glory, O blessed Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Watch Thou, O Lord, over this house and all who shall dwell therein, and graciously hear their prayers. Let Thy Word and Spirit dwell richly in the hearts of all. Grant, that all might be an example of faith and life to their fellow-men. Quicken the spirit of charity and loving service toward all who shall come for counsel and aid, and may all who enter here leave with Thy blessing upon them.

Bless Thou, O Lord, Thy servant, the minister, who shall dwell here. Grant him Thy strength and comfort for his daily tasks, Thy joy and guidance for all his ministrations, until the hearts of all in this congregation shall be won to Thee.

Bless Thou, O Lord, this Thy congregation in all the services, sacrifices and endeavors. Cause all to live worthy of Thy Word and Thy love until Thou dost gather us unto the heavenly home where we shall dwell with Thee in eternity. Amen.

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

The Benediction

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make His face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. Amen.

VIII

The Order for the Dedication of a Cemetery

The people being assembled on the Burial Ground to be dedicated, the service shall be held as follows:

Opening Sentence

Unto the King of kings, and Lord of lords; who only hath immortality, dwelling in light unapproachable; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: be honor and power eternal. Amen.
(1 Ti. 6: 15, 16)

Hymn ("Nearer my God to Thee," or some other appropriate hymn)

Scripture Lesson

And Jacob charged them, and said unto them, I am to be gathered unto my people: bury me with my fathers.
(Gn. 49: 29)

As for man, his days are as grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more. But the lovingkindness of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him, and His righteousness unto children's children; to such as keep His covenant, and to those that remember His precepts to do them. (Ps. 103: 15-18)

Thou wilt guide me with Thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but Thee? And there is none upon earth that I desire beside Thee. My flesh and my heart faileth; but God is the strength of my heart and my portion for ever. (Ps. 73: 24-26)

I know that my Redeemer liveth, and at last He will stand up upon the earth: and after my skin, even this body, is destroyed, then without my flesh shall I see God; whom I, even I, shall see, on my side, and mine eyes shall behold, and not as a stranger.
(Job 19: 25-27)

For we know that if the earthly house of our tabernacle be dissolved, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal, in the heavens. (2 Co. 5: 1)

Jesus said, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth on me, though he die, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth on me shall never die. (Jn. 11: 25, 26)

Now hath Christ been raised from the dead, the first fruits of them that are asleep. (1 Co. 15: 20)

And I heard a voice from heaven saying, Write, Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth: yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; for their works follow with them. (Rev. 14: 13)

And they shall see His face; and His Name shall be on their foreheads. And there shall be night no more; and they need no light of lamp, neither light of sun; for the Lord God shall give them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever. (Rev. 22: 4, 5)

And they shall be His peoples, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God. (Rev. 21: 3)

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their heads: they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. (Is. 35: 10)

(Other appropriate Scripture Lessons: Ezek. 37: 1-14; 1 Co. 15: 12-26.)

Introductory Address

Dearly Beloved:

The Church has ever held sacred the burial place of the dead. Not that we would make of such ground a place of idolatrous pilgrimage, but a spot hallowed by our prayers and tears, our memory and the precious promise: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth: yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; for their works follow with them. Devout faith has therefore come to call the Christian burial ground "God's acre," for here we sow the mortal remains toward the great Day of Resurrection. Christian hope has named it "the last resting place," recognizing the weary journey through this world amid sin and tribulation. And thus this spot must

become for all the living a perpetual reminder of the frailty of life, the certainty of death and the need of preparation and consecration by repentance and faith in order to be ready when our Master shall come to call us home.

Following the custom of the patriarchs, who purchased a burial place for their families, and of Joseph of Arimathea, into whose new tomb was laid the body of our Saviour, we have set aside this burial ground to be "God's acre" for our bodies until the trumpet shall sound and our tombs be opened.

Prayer of Dedication

LORD JESUS CHRIST, Thou Victor over death and the grave, graciously behold us as we now consecrate this burial ground in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Do Thou hallow, dedicate and consecrate it by Thine own power. Make it a resting place for Thy pilgrims; and grant Thy beloved sleep until Thou shalt manifest Thine eternal glory.

Teach us, O Lord, the lesson of death, the stern lesson of human disobedience which has merited such punishment. Grant us faith to know and love Thee, to seek our salvation with fear and trembling, and to follow Thee: the Way, the Truth and the Life. Help us to know Thee and the power of Thy resurrection. And when death overtakes us, let our graves be as the portals to life everlasting.

Comfort us, O Lord, as we come here to mourn our dead, as we commit their bodies into Thy tender care. Dry our tears with the assurance that Thou art the Resurrection and the Life, and that those who believe on Thee shall never die. Strengthen us for our earthly journey, and at last receive us into Thy heavenly kingdom where there is neither sorrow nor death. Amen.

NOTE. Then may follow an address or such other service as may be deemed necessary.

PART TWELVE

Anniversary Service

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The Order for the Anniversary of a Congregation

Opening Sentence

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy Name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies. Amen. (Ps. 103: 1-4)

Make a joyful noise unto Jehovah, all ye lands. Serve Jehovah with gladness: come before His presence with singing. Know ye that Jehovah, He is God: it is He that hath made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: give thanks unto Him, and bless His Name. For Jehovah is good; His lovingkindness endureth for ever, and His faithfulness unto all generations. Amen. (Ps. 100)

Prayer

WE COME into Thy presence with gladness, our heavenly Father, to acknowledge Thee as the Author of every blessing and the Giver of every good and perfect gift. With grateful hearts we praise Thee for the manifestation of Thy power and wisdom, Thy providence and care. Above all do we humbly and sincerely thank Thee that Thou hast crowned the revelation of Thyself in the sending of Thine only begotten Son, Christ Jesus our Saviour. In particular do we rejoice this day and give thanks unto Thee for Thy manifold favors and rich blessings toward this ..... Church (our congregation), which by Thy grace is now

permitted to celebrate its ..... anniversary. Oh give thanks unto Jehovah; for He is good; for His lovingkindness endureth for ever!

We praise Thee, Our Saviour, for Thy work of redemption. Our souls rejoice to know that Thou art now seated at the right hand of God, where as eternal Prophet, Priest and King Thou dost enlighten, intercede for and govern Thy Church. We thank Thee for the many evidences of Thy love and power toward this our congregation and its members during the past. Unto Thee do we offer our songs of joy, and pray Thee to accept our thanksgiving and praise, for in Thee have we obtained a boundless supply for all our needs, tender consolation for all our sorrows, divine strength for all our struggles, and hope of everlasting life in the hours of our grief and death. Worthy art Thou, the Lamb that hath been slain, to receive the power, and riches, and wisdom, and might, and honor, and glory, and blessing!

We praise Thee, O Holy Spirit, for Thy work of sanctification. We thank Thee that by means of the Word of God and the blessed sacraments Thou hast graciously called, enlightened and nourished our souls. We rejoice that Thou hast led us to true repentance and living faith in Jesus Christ our Lord. We praise Thee for bringing us into the blessed communion with Christ and all believers. Especially do we thank Thee for guiding the Church and for preserving this congregation in faith and hope and service, whereby the members were edified and abounded in works of faith and love. Praise be unto Thee, O Holy Spirit, that the love of God has been shed abroad in our hearts and that through Thee we are able to pray: Abba, our Father!

O Triune God, we gratefully proclaim: Hitherto hath Jehovah helped us! We pray Thee, graciously continue to bless and protect, enlighten and save, comfort and guide this congregation, our Evangelical Church and Thy king-

dom at large. And though we feel unworthy of all Thy benefits toward us and know that we have often faltered and failed, we pray Thee, let Thy lovingkindness abound richly, forgive us our sins and make us perfect in every good work to do Thy will. Grant, that this day and all its services unite us closer with Thee, creating in us both the will and the desire to serve Thee more sincerely. We pray Thee, our God, prosper this congregation until all its members shall become living stones of Thy kingdom, firm in faith, steadfast in godliness, and joyful in the hope of everlasting life. With all the redeemed we praise Thee: Holy, Holy, Holy, art Thou, Jehovah of hosts; all the earth is full of Thy glory! Amen.

NOTE. Then shall follow such services as are desired for the occasion.

PART THIRTEEN

Various Tables

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I

Table of the Psalms

1. Psalms of Prayer and Supplication

In reference to the Enemies of Christ and Believers: 3, 7, 10, 28, 35, 44, 56, 64, 70, 71, 79, 83, 94, 109, 137.

Against false Teaching and a wicked Life: 5, 12, 17, 26, 36, 55, 58, 82, 120, 140, 141.

In times of great Affliction: 39, 42, 43, 54, 69, 77, 88, 142.

Warfare and Trials of the Church: 12, 74, 79, 80, 94.

Penitence: 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, 143.

For the Protection of the Church and the Means of Grace: 36, 74, 80, 84.

For the Blessing, Comfort and Mercy of God in all Trouble: 13, 25, 31, 57, 60, 67, 71, 85, 90, 121, 123, 141, 144.

For Ministers and Teachers: 132, 134.

For the Government: 20, 61, 101.

For the Home: 127, 128.

2. Psalms of Comfort

In Danger and Persecution: 4, 11, 52, 56, 91.

In great Affliction and Temptation: 39, 42, 43.

Comfort of Communion with God: 16, 27, 46, 84, 115.

Comfort of divine Providence and Aid: 23, 40, 62, 63, 75, 76, 77, 90, 91, 106, 108, 121, 124, 125, 129, 130.

Comfort while the Godless flourish: 37, 49, 73.

Comfort through the Power and Holiness of God: 21, 47, 48, 52, 61, 76, 82, 93, 99, 146.

The Church, its Victory, Glory and sure Foundation: 46, 84, 87, 122, 129.

3. Psalms of Praise and Thanksgiving

For the Extension, Protection and Defence of the Church: 9, 75, 76, 117, 118, 124, 125, 149.

For the Word of God and the Sacraments: 23, 33, 46, 48, 84, 117.

For Deliverance from Affliction of Body and Soul: 18, 30, 66, 103, 105, 107, 116, 135, 138.

For material and spiritual Gifts: 34, 65, 111, 113, 136, 144, 147.

For divine Glory and Mercy: 19, 29, 47, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 104, 111, 113, 114, 134, 138, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150.

For the Joy of the Godly: 8, 33, 68, 84, 87, 92, 97, 122.

4. Psalms for Guidance and Instruction

Concerning the Law: 78, 119.

Concerning Sin: 14, 49, 53, 90.

Concerning Christ and His Kingdom:

a) His Suffering: 22, 40, 69.

b) His Glory: 2, 16, 19, 21, 24, 45, 47, 72, 89, 109, 110.

Concerning a Life of Godliness: 1, 15, 41, 101, 112, 131, 133, 139.

Concerning the reasonable Worship and Sacrifices: 50, 81, 84, 101, 132.

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II

Table of the Epistles and Gospels for the Sundays and Festivals of the Church Year

Sundays and Festivals	Epistles	Gospels
1. Sunday in Advent	Ro. 13: 11-14	Mt. 21: 1-9
2. Sunday in Advent	Ro. 15: 4-13	Lk. 21: 25-36
3. Sunday in Advent	1 Co. 4: 1-5	Mt. 11: 2-10
4. Sunday in Advent	Ph. 4: 4-7	Jn. 1: 19-28
Christmas Day	Tit. 2: 11-14	Lk. 2: 1-14
Second Christmas Day	Ac. 6: 8-15; 7: 1, 2; 51-59	Lk. 2: 15-20
Sunday after Christmas	Gal. 4: 1-7	Lk. 2: 33-40
New Year's Day	Gal. 3: 23-29	Lk. 2: 21
Sunday after New Year's Day	Tit. 3: 4-8	Mt. 2: 13-23
Epiphany	Is. 60: 1-6	Mt. 2: 1-12
1. Sunday after Epiphany	Ro. 12: 1-5	Lk. 2: 41-52
2. Sunday after Epiphany	Ro. 12: 6-16a	Jn. 2: 1-11
3. Sunday after Epiphany	Ro. 12: 16b-21	Mt. 8: 1-13
4. Sunday after Epiphany	Ro. 13: 8-10	Mt. 8: 23-27
5. Sunday after Epiphany	Col. 3: 12-17	Mt. 13: 24-30
6. Sunday after Epiphany	2 P. 1: 16-21	Mt. 17: 1-9
Septuagesima	1 Co. 9: 24-27; 10: 1-5	Mt. 20: 1-16
Sexagesima	2 Co. 11: 19-33; 12: 1-9	Lk. 8: 4-15
Quinquagesima	1 Co. 13: 1-13	Lk. 18: 31-43
Ash Wednesday	Jl. 2: 12-19	Mt. 6: 16-21
Invocavit, 1. Sunday in Lent	2 Co. 6: 1-10	Mt. 4: 1-11
Reminiscere, 2. Sunday in Lent	1 Th. 4: 1-7	Mt. 15: 21-28
Oculi, 3. Sunday in Lent	Eph. 5: 1-9	Lk. 11: 14-28
Laetare, 4. Sunday in Lent	Gal. 4: 21-31	Jn. 6: 1-15
Judica, 5. Sunday in Lent	He. 9: 11-15	Jn. 8: 46-59
Palmarum, 6. Sunday in Lent	Ph. 2: 5-11	Mt. 21: 1-9
Passion Week: Monday	Is. 50: 5-10	Jn. 12: 1-23
Passion Week: Tuesday	Jer. 11: 18-20	Jn. 12: 24-43
Passion Week: Wednesday	Is. 62: 11; 63: 1-7	Lk. 22: 1-23, 42
Passion Week: Thursday	1 Co. 11: 23-32	Jn. 13: 1-15
Good Friday	Is. 52: 13-15; 53: 1-12	Jn. 19: 1-42
Easter Sunday	1 Co. 5: 6-8	Mk. 16: 1-8
Easter Monday	Ac. 10: 34-41	Lk. 24: 13-35
Quasimodogeniti, 1. Sunday after Easter	1 Jn. 5: 4-10	Jn. 20: 19-31
Misericordias Domini, 2. Sunday after Easter	1 P. 2: 21-25	Jn. 10: 12-16

Sundays and Festivals	Epistles	Gospels
Jubilate, 3. Sunday after Easter	1 P. 2: 11-20	Jn. 16: 16-23
Cantate, 4. Sunday after Easter	Ja. 1: 17-21	Jn. 16: 5-15
Rogate, 5. Sunday after Easter	Ja. 1: 22-27	Jn. 16: 23-30
Ascension Day	Ac. 1: 1-11	Mk. 16: 14-20
Exaudi, 6. Sunday after Easter	1 P. 4: 7-11	Jn. 15: 26—16: 4
Pentecost Sunday	Ac. 2: 1-13	Jn. 14: 23-31
Pentecost Monday	Ac. 10: 42-48	Jn. 3: 16-21
Trinity Sunday	Ro. 11: 33-36	Jn. 3: 1-15
1. Sunday after Trinity	1 Jn. 4: 16-21	Lk. 16: 19-31
2. Sunday after Trinity	1 Jn. 3: 13-18	Lk. 14: 16-24
3. Sunday after Trinity	1 P. 5: 6-11	Lk. 15: 1-10
4. Sunday after Trinity	Ro. 8: 18-23	Lk. 6: 36-42
5. Sunday after Trinity	1 P. 3: 8-15	Lk. 5: 1-11
6. Sunday after Trinity	Ro. 6: 3-11	Mt. 5: 20-26
7. Sunday after Trinity	Ro. 6: 19-23	Mk. 8: 1-9
8. Sunday after Trinity	Ro. 8: 12-17	Mt. 7: 15-23
9. Sunday after Trinity	1 Co. 10: 6-13	Lk. 16: 1-9
10. Sunday after Trinity	1 Co. 12: 1-11	Lk. 19: 41-48
11. Sunday after Trinity	1 Co. 15: 1-10	Lk. 18: 9-14
12. Sunday after Trinity	2 Co. 3: 4-9	Mk. 7: 31-37
13. Sunday after Trinity	Gal. 3: 15-22	Lk. 10: 23-37
14. Sunday after Trinity	Gal. 5: 16-24	Lk. 17: 11-19
15. Sunday after Trinity	Gal. 5: 25, 26; 6: 1-10	Mt. 6: 24-34
16. Sunday after Trinity	Eph. 3: 13-21	Lk. 7: 11-17
17. Sunday after Trinity	Eph. 4: 1-6	Lk. 14: 1-11
18. Sunday after Trinity	1 Co. 1: 4-9	Mt. 22: 34-46
19. Sunday after Trinity	Eph. 4: 22-28	Mt. 9: 1-8
20. Sunday after Trinity	Eph. 5: 15-21	Mt. 22: 1-14
21. Sunday after Trinity	Eph. 6: 10-17	Jn. 4: 46-54
22. Sunday after Trinity	Ph. 1: 3-11	Mt. 18: 23-35
23. Sunday after Trinity	Ph. 3: 17-21	Mt. 22: 15-22
24. Sunday after Trinity	Col. 1: 9-14	Mt. 9: 18-26
25. Sunday after Trinity	1 Th. 4: 13-18	Mt. 24: 15-28
26. Sunday after Trinity	2 P. 3: 3-14	Mt. 25: 31-46
27. Sunday after Trinity	1 Th. 5: 1-11	Mt. 25: 1-13
Reformation Festival	Gal. 2: 16-21	Jn. 2: 13-21
Harvest Home Festival	Ac. 14: 15-17	Lk. 12: 13-21
National Thanksgiving Day	1 Ti. 2: 1-8	Ps. 105: 40-45

III

Table of Rules to find the Movable Festivals

CHRISTMAS DAY, which always occurs on the 25th day of December, determines the ADVENT SEASON, the four Sundays preceding Christmas Day being known as the ADVENT SUNDAYS.

EPIPHANY (The festival of), which occurs on the 6th day of January, inaugurates the EPIPHANY SEASON, with from three to six Sundays following, and lasting until the Pre-Lenten Season.

The PRE-LENTEN SEASON is composed of the three Sundays:

Septuagesima Sunday, nine weeks before Easter,
Sexagesima Sunday, eight weeks before Easter,
Quinquagesima Sunday, seven weeks before Easter.

The LENTEN SEASON begins with ASH WEDNESDAY, being the Wednesday after Quinquagesima Sunday, or forty-six days before Easter.

PALM SUNDAY, or the beginning of Passion Week, is the Sunday before Easter.

GOOD FRIDAY is the Friday before Easter.

The festival of EASTER is observed on the first Sunday after the Full Moon which occurs on or next after the 21st day of March. Should this Full Moon occur on a Sunday, the festival of Easter will be the following Sunday.

ASCENSION DAY is the fortieth day after Easter.

The festival of PENTECOST is seven weeks after Easter.

TRINITY SUNDAY is the Sunday after Pentecost and is followed by from 22—27 Sundays, known as the Sundays after Trinity, or TRINITY SEASON, the number during any given year being determined by the dates of Easter Sunday and the first Sunday in Advent.

REFORMATION DAY is the Sunday nearest the 31st day of October.

MEMORIAL SUNDAY is the last of the Sundays after Trinity and immediately precedes the first Sunday in Advent.

The National THANKSGIVING DAY is always designated by the President of the United States and is usually observed on the last Thursday in the month of November.

IV

Table of the Days on which Easter will fall from 1915–2015

1915	April	4	1949	April	17	1983	April	3
1916	April	23	1950	April	9	1984	April	22
1917	April	8	1951	March	25	1985	April	7
1918	March	31	1952	April	13	1986	March	30
1919	April	20	1953	April	5	1987	April	19
1920	April	4	1954	April	18	1988	April	3
1921	March	27	1955	April	10	1989	March	26
1922	April	16	1956	April	1	1990	April	15
1923	April	1	1957	April	21	1991	March	31
1924	April	20	1958	April	6	1992	April	19
1925	April	12	1959	March	29	1993	April	11
1926	April	4	1960	April	17	1994	April	3
1927	April	17	1961	April	2	1995	April	16
1928	April	8	1962	April	22	1996	April	7
1929	March	31	1963	April	14	1997	March	30
1930	April	20	1964	March	29	1998	April	12
1931	April	5	1965	April	18	1999	April	4
1932	March	27	1966	April	10	2000	April	23
1933	April	16	1967	March	26	2001	April	15
1934	April	1	1968	April	14	2002	March	31
1935	April	21	1969	April	6	2003	April	20
1936	April	12	1970	March	29	2004	April	11
1937	March	28	1971	April	11	2005	March	27
1938	April	17	1972	April	2	2006	April	16
1939	April	9	1973	April	22	2007	April	8
1940	March	24	1974	April	14	2008	March	24
1941	April	13	1975	March	30	2009	April	12
1942	April	5	1976	April	18	2010	April	4
1943	April	25	1977	April	10	2011	April	24
1944	April	9	1978	March	26	2012	April	8
1945	April	1	1979	April	15	2013	March	29
1946	April	21	1980	April	6	2014	April	20
1947	April	6	1981	April	19	2015	April	5
1948	March	28	1982	April	11			

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